JUMP COMICS DELUXE

RING 2

リング

島袋光年

SJ JUMP COMICS DELUXE

RING リング 2

島袋光年

集英社

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前巻までのあらすじ いってみようか～

スポーツ名門校・山川学園に入学した超ハイテンション男・花形夏（通称サマー）は、親友・時田と共に、憧れの先輩・佐織あすかがマネージャーを務める輪部（リング）に入部。リングとは、輪投げをフィールド競技にしたスポーツ。リング経験者で佐織の弟の同級生・洋介とリングで1on1（ワンオンワン）対決をしたサマーだが、終始劣勢ながらも超ロングシュートを決め、才能の片鱗をのぞかせる。そして、1・2年チーム対3年チームの紅白戦が開催。佐織は出場を果たすが、ルールも知らぬサマーは見学。3年生との圧倒的な実力差を見せつけられてしまうが!?

RING 2

by SHIMABUKURO MITSUTOSHI

RING

リング

SHIMABUKURO
おことは…
MITSUTOSHI

Pardon me…
Aw man! My body weight's seriously in bad shape!! I've clearly gained weight!! I'm writing a friggin' sports manga but my actual body is clearly turning into a shape totally disconnected with sports!! I've gotta start moving or I'll be in trouble!! Okay, maybe I'll play some Ring!

カバーデザイン
シマダヒデアキ

Who's that?
Seikimatsu Leader Den
Takeshi!
Wide-Ban
1~8 now on sale!!
01
02
03
04
05
06
07
08
たけし!
NAY

RING

リング

by SHIMABUKURO MITSUTOSHI

JUMP COMICS DELUXE

SJ JUMP COMICS DELUXE

RING リング 2

島袋光年

SUPER JUMP COMICS

集英社

RING 2

島袋光年

SHIMABUKURO MITSUTOSHI

RING #2

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A compilation of what ran in Super Jump 2004 No 16-23

This is a work of fiction There is no connection to actual people, groups or events whatsoever

Ring 9 : The Star Takes the Stage...?!

Shimabus'

Thought up all on my own....

Rules of Ring!

~Really Broad~

■ Number of Players

- Ring is made up of 7 people per team playing on the court. There are 8 alternate players. There are a total of 15 players that can be entered in one game.

■ How to Sub-in Players

- It's generally OK to sub in players as many times as you want. However, if a player receives two yellow cards, they are suspended and cannot reenter the court.

- When subbing-in, there is no need to get the ref's permission. If they pass through the specified zone (past the substitution line) and then they are free to do so as many times as they like. (The substitution line is on the sideline stretching from the center line to 5 meters into one's own team's side.)

■ Play Time

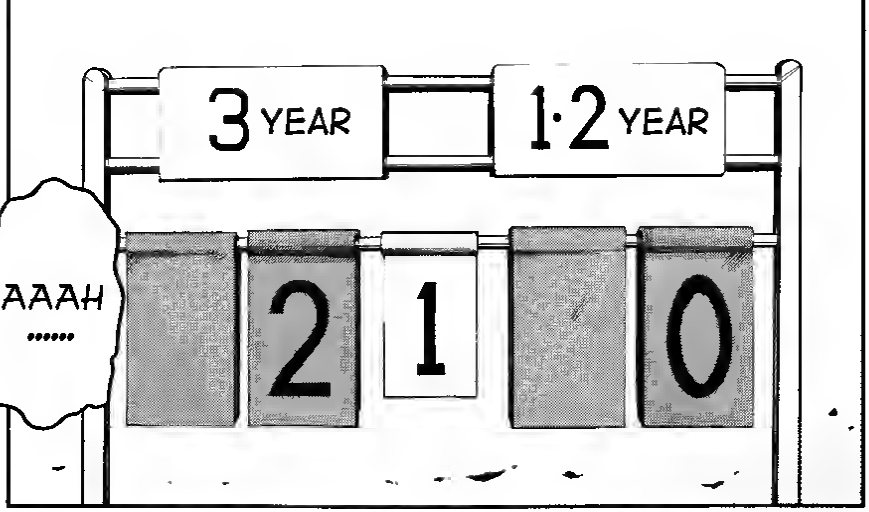
- On the high school level, boys and girls teams have 30 minutes in each half, totaling 1 hour of play. Between them is a 10-minute rest period. Also, at the second half you switch sides.

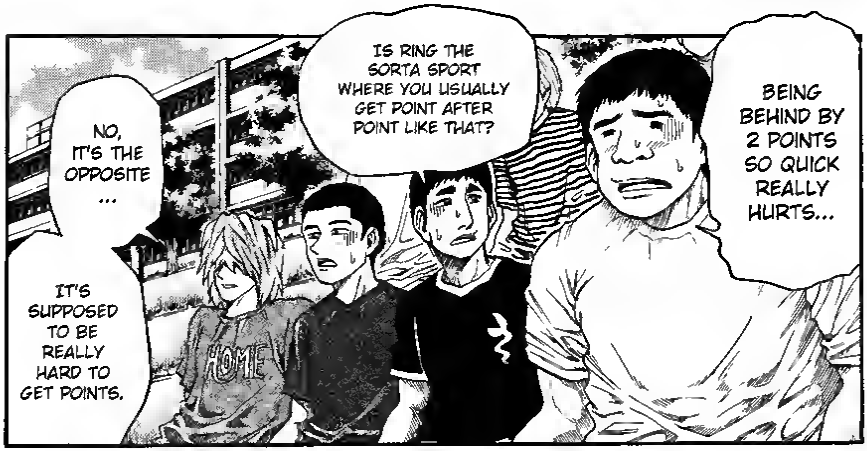
- If a game ends with the same score on both teams and a winner must be decided, you enter extra-time with 1 halves of 10 minutes each, totaling 20 minutes. If that also ends with the same score, 5 people on each team enter a free-throw shootout. Furthermore, depending on the competition's rules, there may be no extra time and go immediately into a shootout.

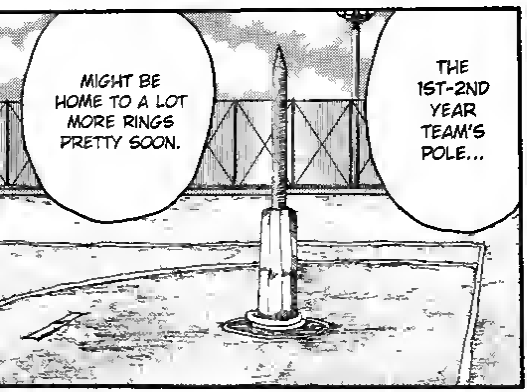
T/N: THESE ARE PARODIES OF JAPANESE WIG MAKERS ADERANS AND REVE 21

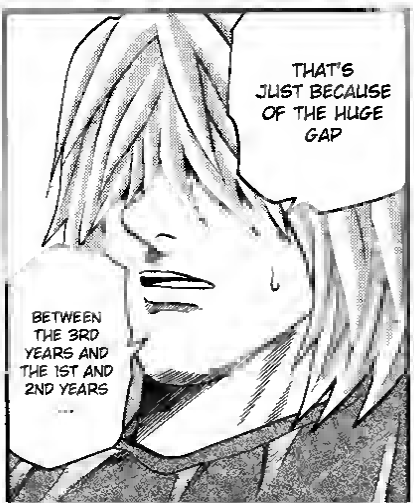
NO NEED TO HOLD BACK, HIT US WITH ALL YA GOT!!
C'MON, C'MON, C'MOOOON! WHAT'S WRONG, 1ST AND 2ND YEARS?!!

SFX: PAN PAN
LET'S BOUNCE RIGHT BACK!
OKAY, LET'S FORGET ABOUT THOSE 2 POINTS, YUMIBA-SAN!
THAT GU~~~Y
GU...
2
5
7
.....

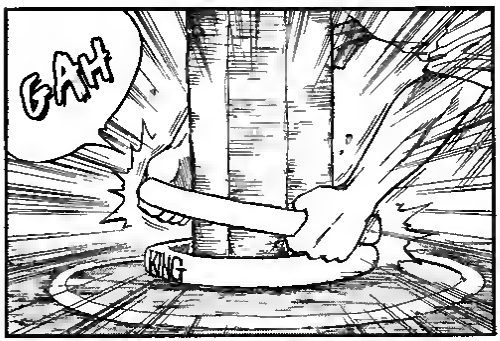

3 YEAR
1·2 YEAR
AAAH ……
2
1
0

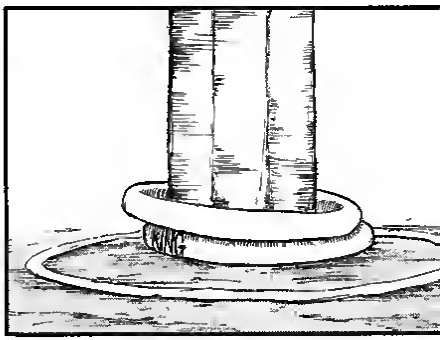

NO, IT'S THE OPPOSITE …
IS RING THE SORTA SPORT WHERE YOU USUALLY GET POINT AFTER POINT LIKE THAT?
BEING BEHIND BY 2 POINTS SO QUICK REALLY HURTS…
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE REALLY HARD TO GET POINTS.
HOME


MIGHT BE HOME TO A LOT MORE RINGS PRETTY SOON.
THE 1ST-2ND YEAR TEAM'S POLE…


THAT'S JUST BECAUSE OF THE HUGE GAP
BETWEEN THE 3RD YEARS AND THE 1ST AND 2ND YEARS …

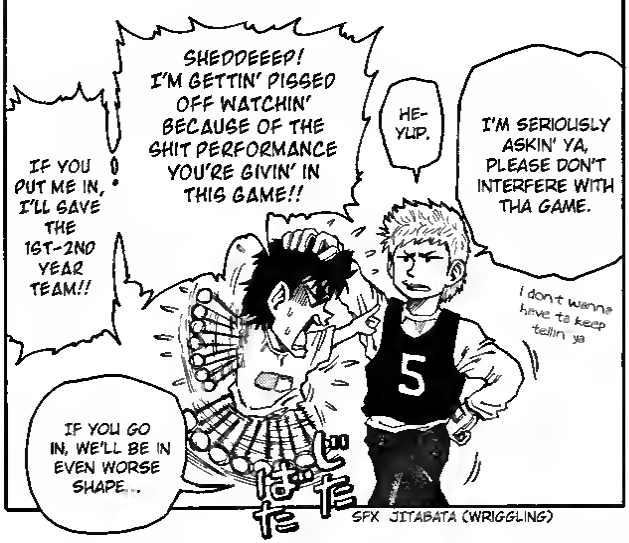
SFX. SOOOOOTTO (GENTLY)

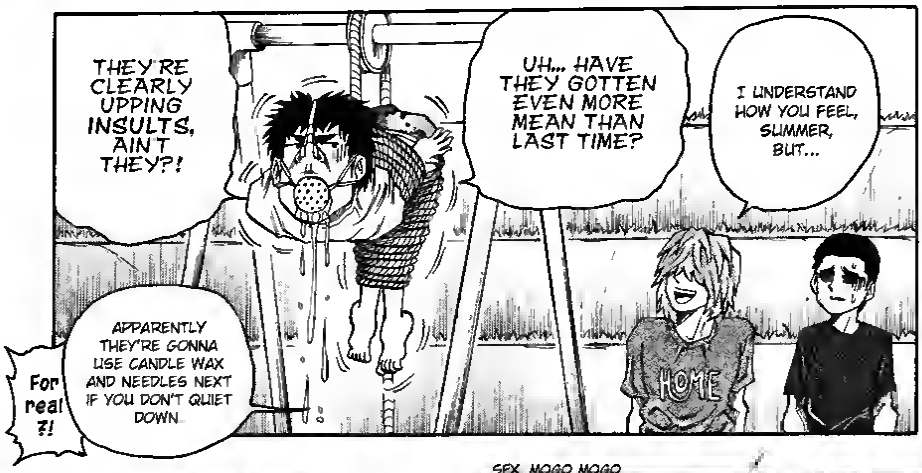




SFX. BUN BUN WUAAAAAH

RING 2

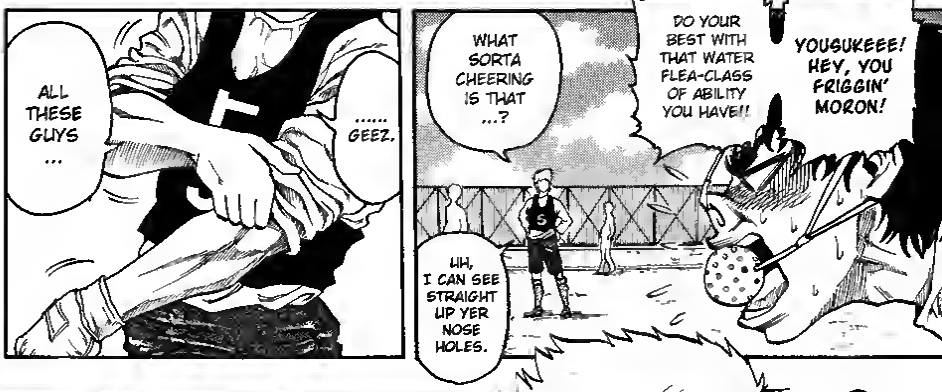

SHEDDEEEP! I'M GETTIN' PISSED OFF WATCHIN' BECAUSE OF THE SHIT PERFORMANCE YOU'RE GIVIN' IN THIS GAME!!
HE-YUP.
I'M SERIOUSLY ASKIN' YA, PLEASE DON'T INTERFERE WITH THA GAME.
IF YOU PUT ME IN, I'LL SAVE THE 1ST-2ND YEAR TEAM!!
I don't wanna have ta keep tellin' ya
IF YOU GO IN, WE'LL BE IN EVEN WORSE SHAPE...
じたばた
SFX JITABATA (WRIGGLING)


THEY'RE CLEARLY UPPING INSULTS, AIN'T THEY?!
UH... HAVE THEY GOTTEN EVEN MORE MEAN THAN LAST TIME?
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, SUMMER, BUT...
APPARENTLY THEY'RE GONNA USE CANDLE WAX AND NEEDLES NEXT IF YOU DON'T QUIET DOWN.
For real?!
HOME

HOW 'BOUT WE CHEER THE 1ST-2ND YEAR TEAM ON TOGETHER!
'KAY?
IF YA TAKE IT EASY, I'LL TAKE THOSE OFF, SO...

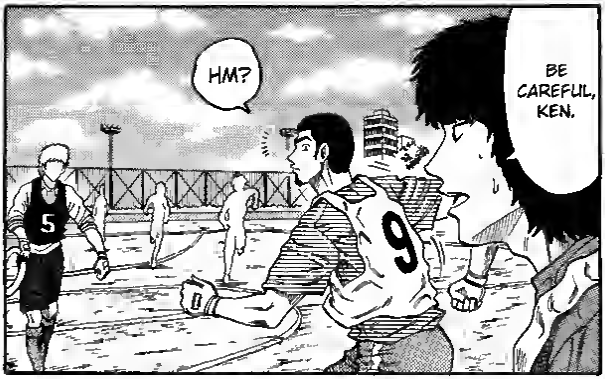
SFX MOGO MOGO
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!! I'M NOT INTO THIS SORTA THING.....
ASHUKA-SENPAI!
HAH!
SUMMER-KUN.
モゴモゴ

SFX: GURU GURU (SPINING)


ALL THESE GUYS ...
..... GEEZ.
WHAT SORTA CHEERING IS THAT ...?
DO YOUR BEST WITH THAT WATER FLEA-CLASS OF ABILITY YOU HAVE!!
YOUSUKEEE! HEY, YOU FRIGGIN' MORON!
UH, I CAN SEE STRAIGHT UP YER NOSE HOLES.

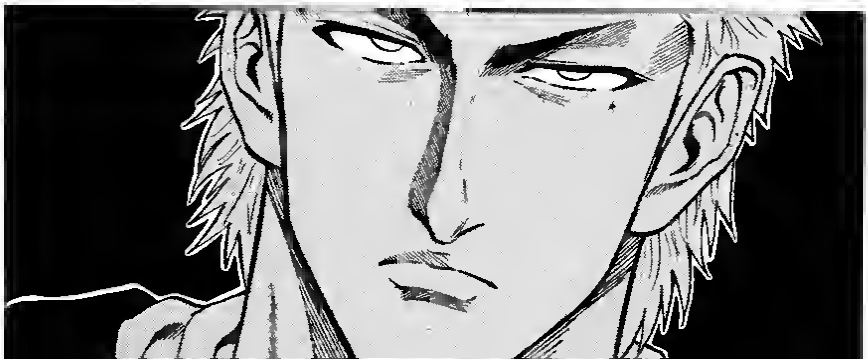
WE'VE GOTTA PAY THEM BACK FOR SCORING ON US...!
LOOKS LIKE HIS ENGINE'S FINALLY STARTED UP.
YEAH...
!
GET TO A PLACE WHERE IT'S EASY TO SHOOT
YUMI-SAN, KEEP ON YOUR TOES.
AH... SURE, NO PROB.
5
SFX: PIIIIH
4
3
SFX BAMU
KEEP ON HIM!!
Pres-sure!!
TAKE IT, SAORI!
7

COME AT US, SAORI!!
OOOOOKAY !!


HM?
BE CAREFUL, KEN.

SFX: BAM BAM
DON' GET COCKY ...
HMPH ...

.....

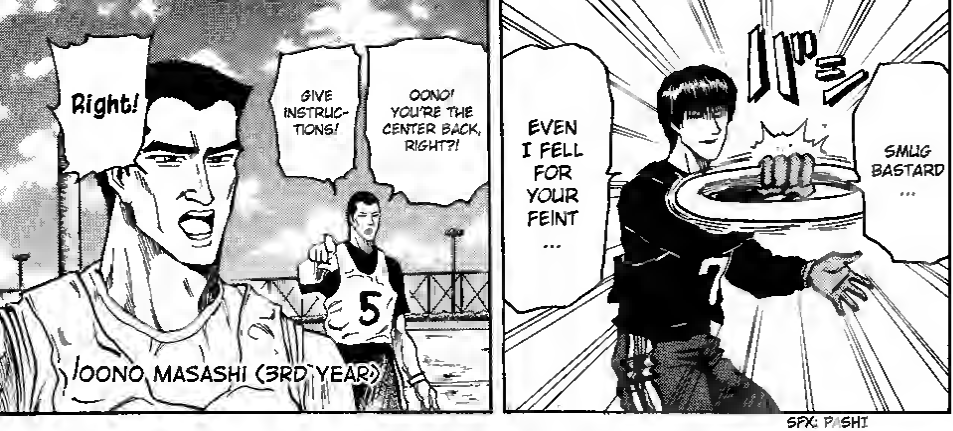


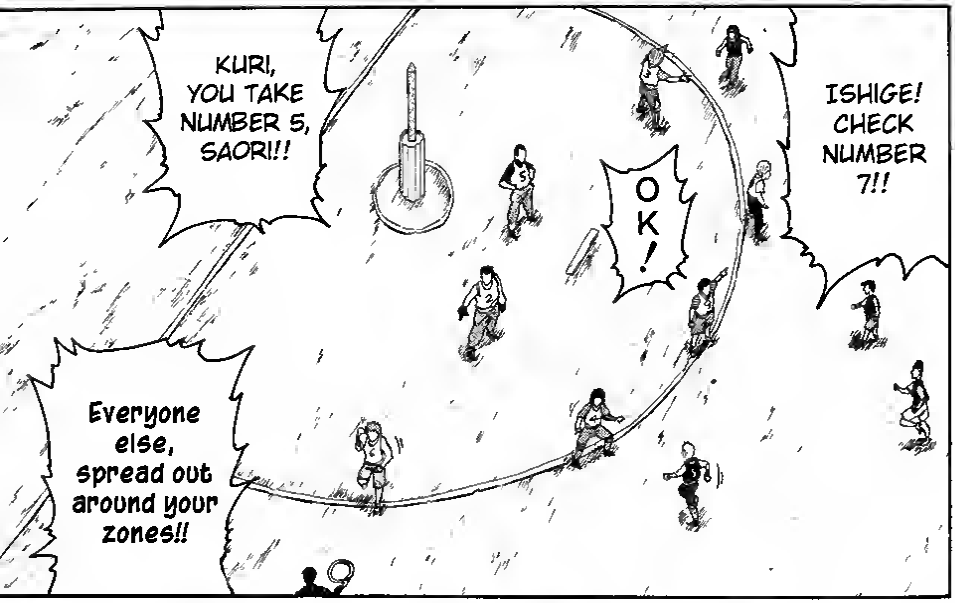
SFX: ZAH
SFX. DON
SFX: GAH
!
MUO
?!

……?
AAAAAH! FOUUUUL!!
ヒソ
AH…
……
THE CAPTAIN DIDN'T THINK AND ACCIDENTALLY GRABBED HIIIIM!!
HOLDING! WHITE, NUMBER 9!!
SO YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GRAB?
YEP, YOU CAN'T. THAT'S A FAULT
THE DEFENSE IS ONLY ALLOWED TO TAKE THE "RING".
SO IF YA PURPOSEFULLY TRIP 'EM, PUSH 'EM, OR HIT 'EM, IT'S A FOUL…
……
TH…… THAT'S TOO BAD~~~
JUST NOW …
SAORI-KUN REALLY HAD SOME INCREDIBLE SPEED…
YEAH …
IF HE HADN'T FOULED HIM, HE WOULD'VE TOTALLY GOTTEN AWAY…
KEN, SOMEBODY KNOWN FOR BEING GOOD AT DEFENSE …
ALMOST GOT OVERTAKEN THAT CLEANLY?

.....
THAT SAORI KID... HE'S FINALLY STARTED HIS ENGINE, HUH...?
THAT CHANGE OF PACE WITH HIS EYE-FEINT...
AFTER A FOUL
THE FOULED PLAYER DOES A THROW-OFF FROM THE POINT THEY WERE FOULED AND PLAY RESUMES.
ピッ
SFX: BYUH PASHI PIIIH
ピッ
OVER HERE
SFX. PASHI
SFX. SHU
!
Ah, Saori-kun, he's coming up behind you!

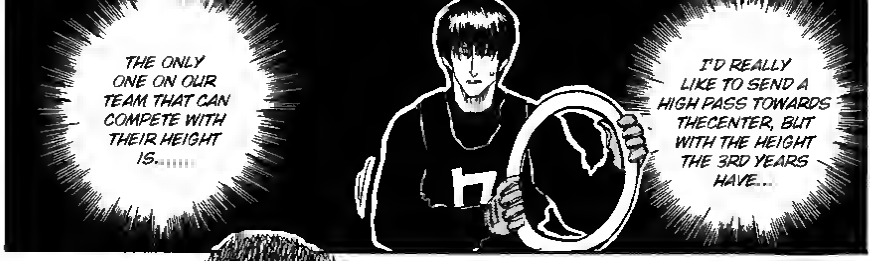
OVER HERE!
OAH ?!
SFX: BAH
SFX: DAH
UWAA! HE GOT PAST MEEEE!!
HE'S GOOD!
SFX: BIH
AAAAH, AND RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY BACKUP,
HE PASSED IT!


Right!
GIVE INSTRUCTIONS!
OONO! YOU'RE THE CENTER BACK, RIGHT?!
OONO MASASHI (3RD YEAR)
EVEN I FELL FOR YOUR FEINT ...
SMUG BASTARD ...
SFX: PASHI

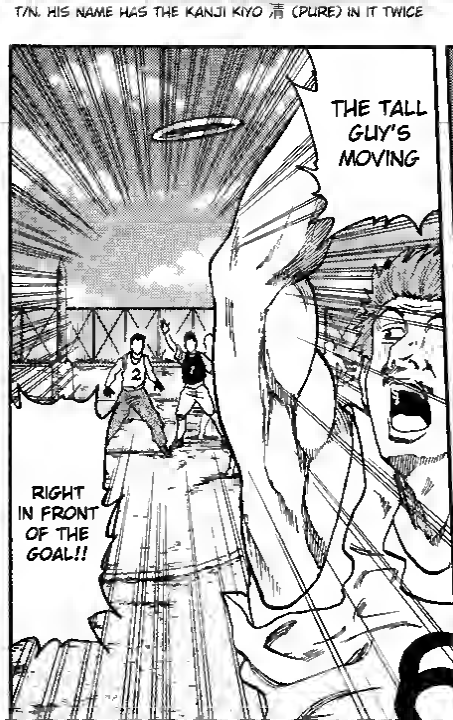

KURI, YOU TAKE NUMBER 5, SAORI!!
OK!
ISHIGE! CHECK NUMBER 7!!
Everyone else, spread out around your zones!!

YOU CAN SHOOT AT THIS POINT, SO DO IIIIT!! SHOOOOOT!!!
JUST GO ALREADYYY! SHOOT! SHOOOOOT!!

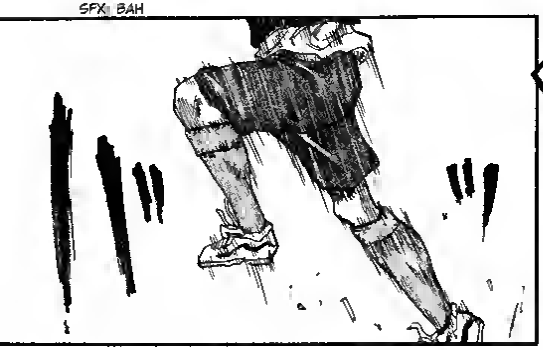
YOU CAN DO IIIIIT!!
EVERY-BODY, GO UPFIEEELD!!
OOH! THE 1ST-2ND YEAR TEAM HAVE A CHANCE TO SCORE!!


THE ONLY ONE ON OUR TEAM THAT CAN COMPETE WITH THEIR HEIGHT IS.....
I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEND A HIGH PASS TOWARDS THECENTER, BUT WITH THE HEIGHT THE 3RD YEARS HAVE...

T/N. HIS NAME HAS THE KANJI KIYO 清 (PURE) IN IT TWICE



ALL RIIIGHT!
GUH
MUU
2
5
SFX. GAH GAH


SFX: BAH

SFX: WHA
CAN HE GET PAST THEM
AAH!!
CROWDED TOGETHER LINE THAT?!

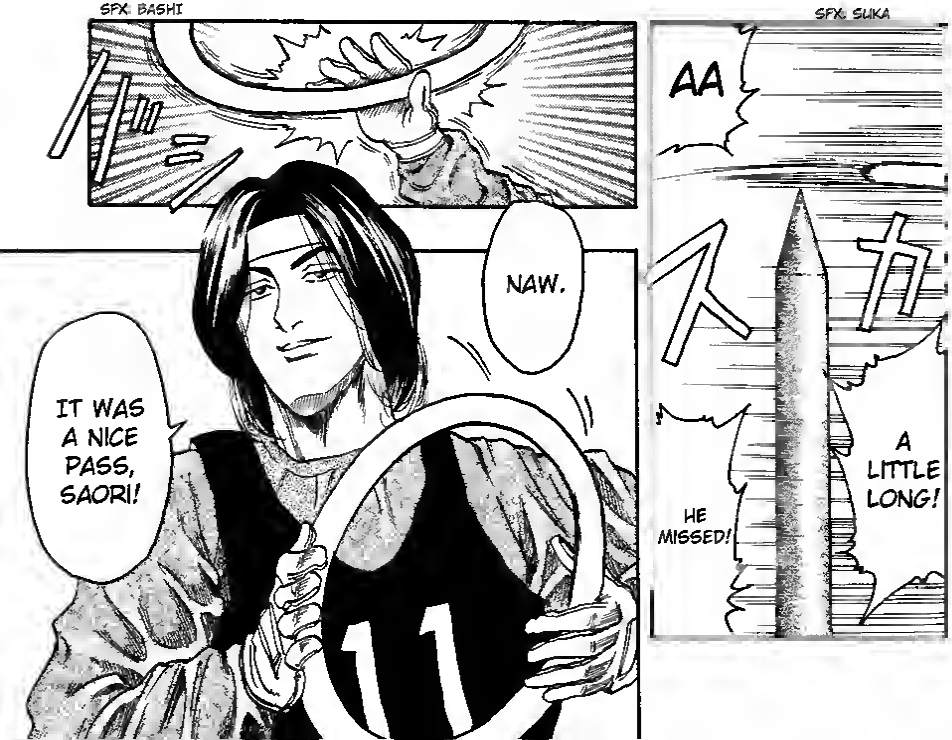
SFX: PASHI
5
4
3

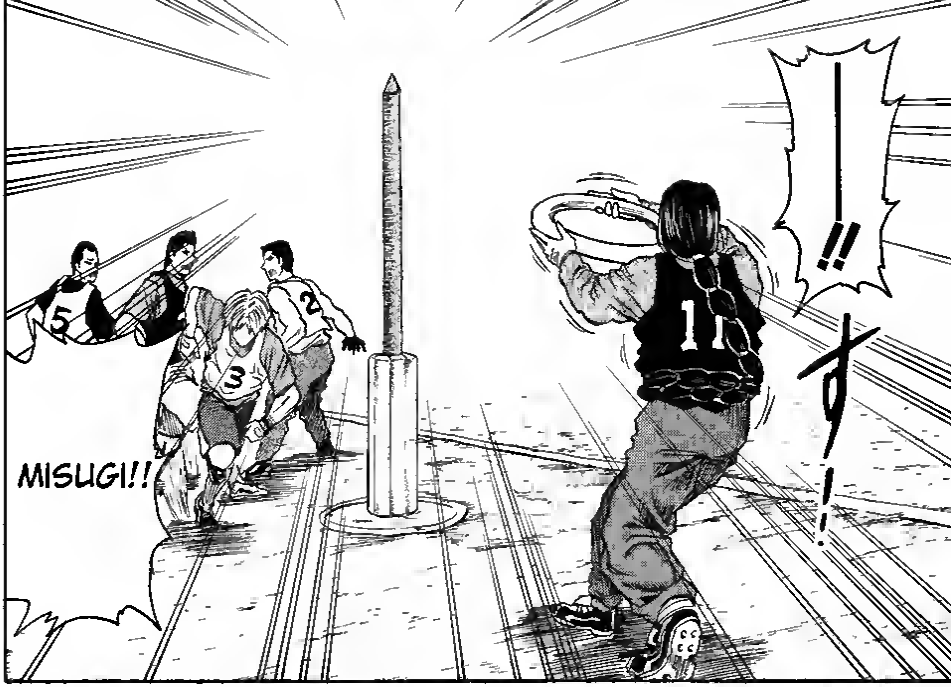
!!!!
WHA ?!
SFX: WAH
MAAAAN, THAT GUY CAN JUMP!!
SAORI!!!
WHA- AAAA- AT?!!
SFX: SHUH

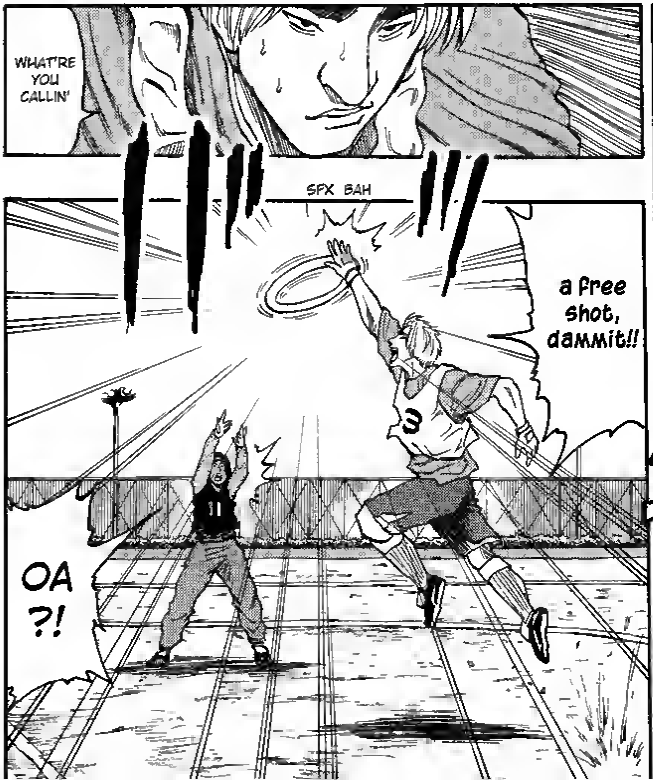
SFX: OOOO

SFX: BASHI

SFX: SUKA

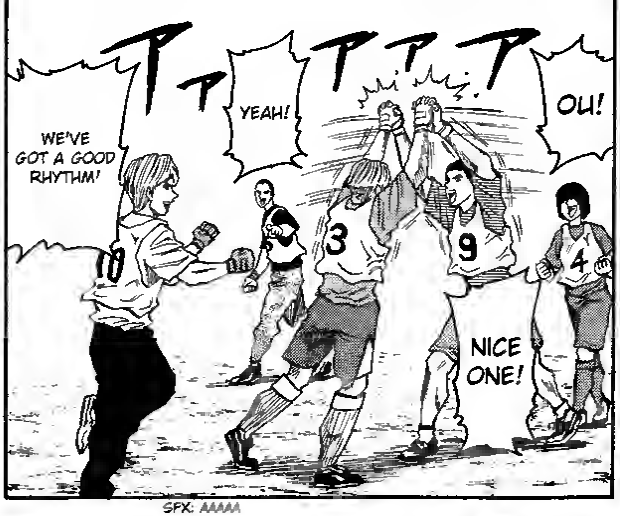



!!
す!!
MISUGI!!
SFX SU

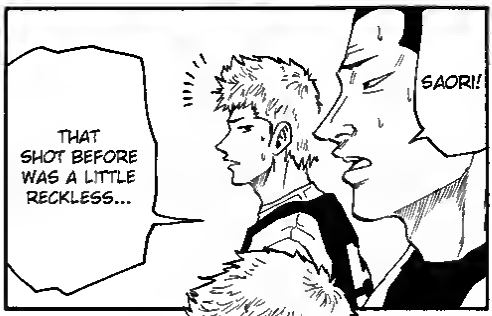

WHAT'RE YOU CALLIN'
SFX BAH
a free shot, dammit!!
OA ?!

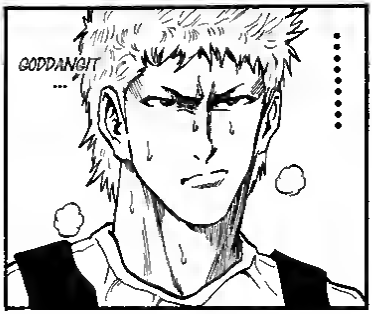
I'VE GOT A TOTALLY
FREE SHOT!

RUN!!
OOOOOKAY, KEEP IT GOIIIING!
UOH!
SFX: DON
NICE CUT, KYUU-CHAN!!
UWAAA! THAT WAS HIIIGH!!
OGAWA KYUUICHIROU (3RD YEAR)
WHAT A HIGH JUMP...
WHA!
G-Go back...!!
SFX: UWAAAAA GAN WAH
うわおおお
AND THEY SCORED A 3RD POIIINT!!
GAN
URAA
THEY'RE SO FAAAAAST! THE 3RD YEARS COUNTER!


WE'VE GOT A GOOD RHYTHM!
YEAH!
OH!
NICE ONE!
SFX: AAAAA

NIII-IICE!!


SAORI!
THAT SHOT BEFORE WAS A LITTLE RECKLESS...


GODDANG!T ...
.....

ISSU...
Kah
.....

BEING CLOSER TO THE GOAL IS GOOD,
BUT AT THAT RANGE, UNLESS YOU'RE IN A GOOD STANCE FIRST, IT'S NOT GONNA BE A RINGER TOO OFTEN...!

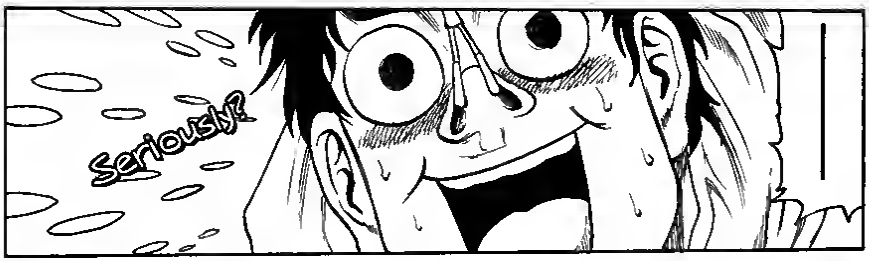
I WAS SURE THAT WAS GONNA GO IN, TOO.....
GUH
SHIIIT...

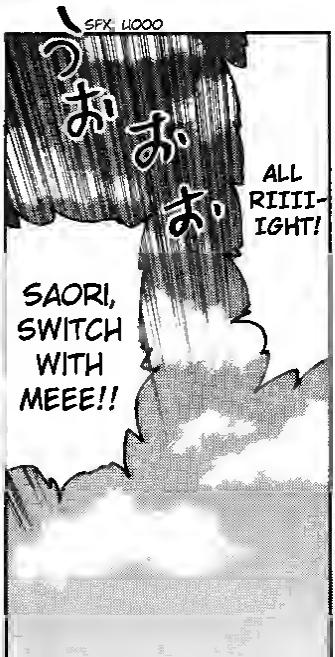
NGH UAH!!!!
SFX: B, KIH
UNU NU NU NU NU NU NU NU NU NU NU NU
RIGHT WHEN THEY'D FINALLY GOTTEN CLOSE TO THE 3RD YEAR GOAL, TOO ……
AAH…… NOW THERE'S A 3-POINT DIFFERENCE ……
HEY NOW, SUMMER-KUN, CALM DOWN A BIT…
If you're not into it, put me in!! Hey, Saori!! Let me sub-in for you!!!!
ZHEEEEEEEEY! Quit actin' like slugs out there! Let's see some hustle, 1st and 2nd years!!! Uoh?! Move like you're in your teens a little!! Let's see some sweat!!
AH!
SUPER-VISOR!!
SFX NOSO
のそ
!
HEEEEY! EVERYTHING GOING ALL RIGHT HEEEERE?
OH!
HM?
4
9

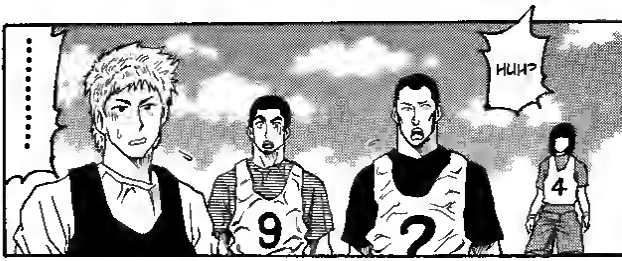
III-
ISSU
III-
ISSU
ISU
IIII-
IISSU!!
Fuji-
sensei!!
HMMMM
3-0,
HUH...?
YAMAGAWA ACADEMY RING
TEAM SUPERVISOR
FUJI TAKASHI
T/N: HIS NAME CAN ALSO BE READ LIKE "MOUNT FUJI"

HEEEY! SUPER-VISOOOR!
!
HM?
HE'S THE SUPERVISOR OF OUR RING TEAM!
FUJI-SENSE!!
MU..... WHO IS THAT CHIN...?
FER REAL?!
H-HEY, SUMMER-KUN...
IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
RIGHT?
IS IT OKAY IF I JOIN THE SCRIMMAGE MAAAATCH?
HM?
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS DAD...
THE MATCH?
GEEZ, THAT MORON ...
THE BEGINNERS NEED TO SIT TIGHT AND WATCH!!
HEEEY, SUMMER, I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE OBSERVING!
5
SUPER-VISOR! IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO JOIN, RIGHT? IN THE MATCH!?
THAT'S QUITE AN GETUP YOU'RE IN...
HOH... SO YOU'RE HANAGATA-KUN...?

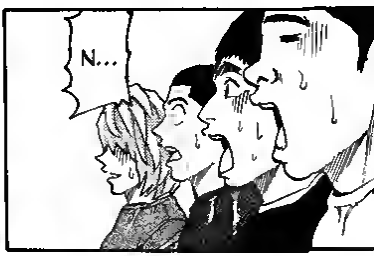
YOU CAN LEARN THE RULES BY PLAYING...
YEAH, IT'S FINE.


Seriously?
!!


SFX: UOOO
うおお
ALL RIIII-IGHT!
SAORI, SWITCH WITH MEEE!!


.....
HUH?
9
?
4

NO WAY.


N...

Ring10 ..Beginner, Embrace Ambition...!!

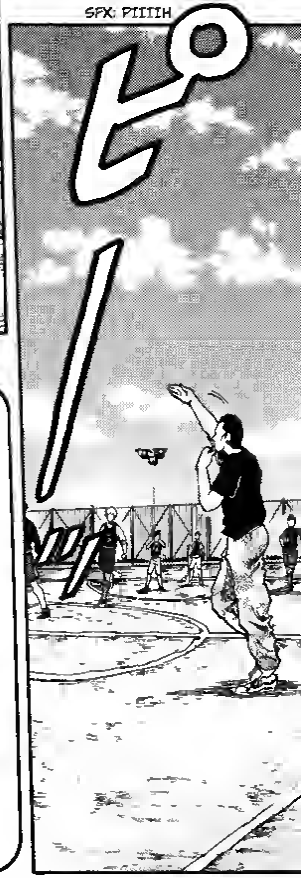
Ring10 : Beginner, Embrace Ambition...!!

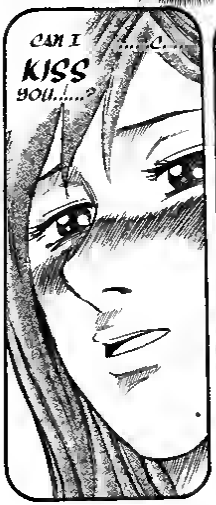
IF FUJI-SENSEI SAYS IT'S OKAY, THEN THERE'S REALLY NOTHING WE CAN DO.
IS SUMMER SERIOUSLY GONNA PLAY...?
HEY, HEY ...
ALL RIIIIGHT! 1ST-2ND YEAR TEAM, GATHER 'ROUUUND!!
Get over heere!
SMOON!
WE NEED A MEETING TO CONCOCT OUR BIG COMEBACK STRATEGY!!
!
YOU GO ON THE 1ST-2ND YEAR TEAM.
HEY, SEKI! I'M SUBBING OUT! I'LL BE REFEREE.
HM?
HEY, SAORI!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS!
IIII-IISSU!
SEKI RYOUTA (2ND YEAR)
SFX PON
WHY DO I GOTTA SWITCH WITH YOU?!! I DON' WANNA!!
WHY ?!!
BUT SWAP WITH ME NOW!
You go take a rest
YOU DID GOOD FOR SOMEBODY WITH THE SKILLS OF A NEWBORN BABY...

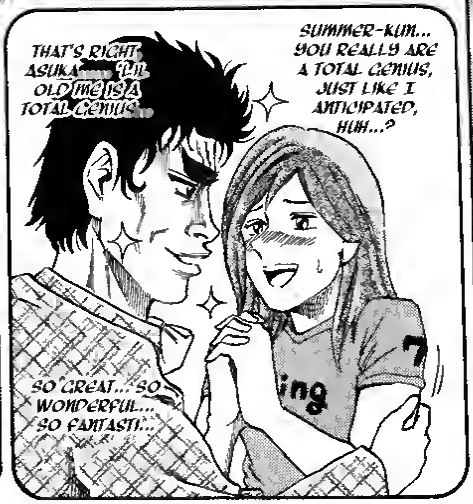
WELL, IT'S A PRETTY NORMAL HANDICAP.
WHUA~~~~H?! THAT JE~~~RK! THAT DAMN YAKUZA'S LOOKING DOWN ON ME~~~!
SHEDDED!
You there!
OH, THANKS SEKI!
HE SAID THAT'LL BE A HANDICAP FOR SUMMER COMING IN
HEEY! THE 3RD YEARS SAID THAT IZUMI-SAN WILL GO OUT SO THEY'LL PLAY WITH 6 PEOPLE.
11
Y-YOU GUYS .....
HM?
I'D REALLY LIKE TO SIT OUT IF I GET THE CHANCE
YEAH, ME, TOO ...
UH, ACTUALLY I WANT TO SUB OUT
HAHA
AH..... UM~~~ HANAGATA-KUN... I DON'T MIND SUBBING OUT.....
IT'S BLACK'S RING!!
OOOKAY, THEN LET'S GET STARTEE-EEED!
I'M NAKA-MURA
IT'S SA-TOU
IT'S IT'S YAMA-MOTO
I understand completely
Yes, yes
I see, I see.
JUST SO YOU KNOW
NAMELESS EXTRAS... YOU'VE FOUGHT BRAVELY...
WE'RE BRINGING IN SUMMER AND SEKI!
FOR NOW, WE'LL SUB TWO PLAYERS.

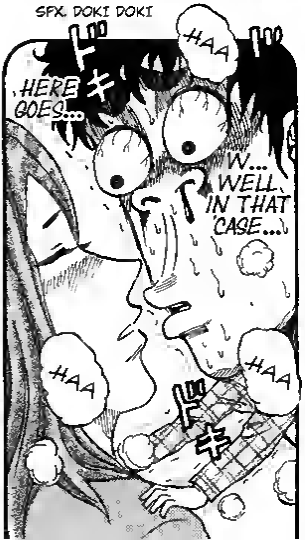
JUST AS WE'VE BEEN DOING, KEEP THE PRESSURE COMING FROM THE FRONT!!
WE'RE KEEPING THE SAME POSITIONS!
OOOKAY!
LET'S GET ANOTHER 10 POINTS!
OOOH!!
We've still got plenty of time!!
ALL RIIIIGHT, LET'S GOO!!!
We can make a come-back!!
.....
That thing from that summer!
THIS GUY'S SERIOUSLY FIRED UP 'BOUT THIS, I GUESS.
LET'S DO THE PLAY FROM THAT DAY!! REMEMBER THAT PLAY FROM THAT DAY, GUYS ?!!
WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE ARE THIS YEAR'S ROOKIES.....?
.....NOW, LET'S SEE.....
'ERE
WE GO.

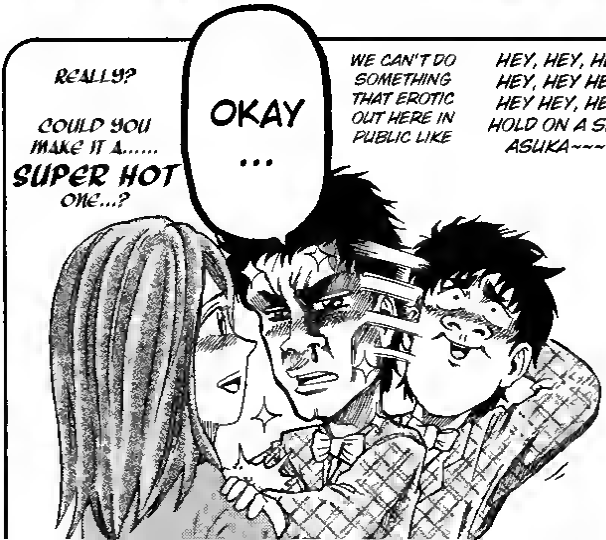
THE MOMENT WHEN ASUKA-SENPAI WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE HER EYES OFF ME.....!
IF I CAN... TURN THINGS AROUND HERE...
...AW MAAAAN THIS CAME SO SUDDENLY~~~~
ドキドキ
ドキドキ
10
6
2
SFX: DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI


SFX: PIIIIH
ピー


CAN I KISS YOU.....?

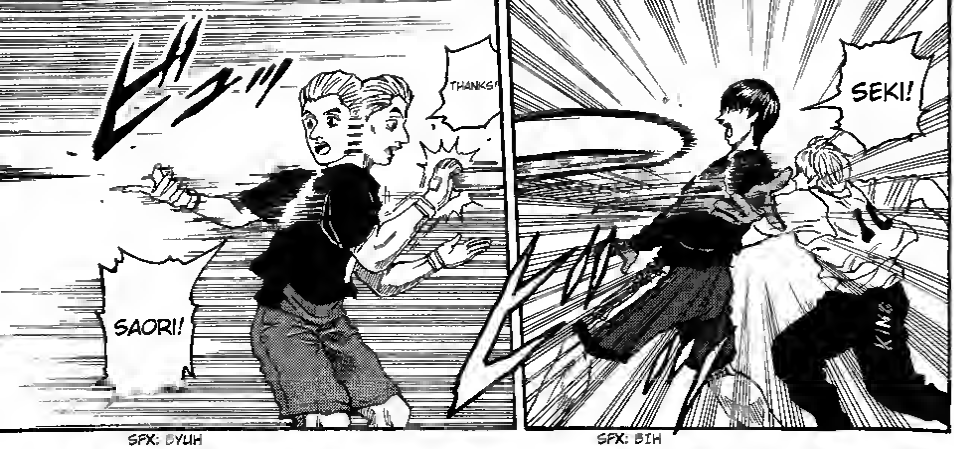

THAT'S RIGHT, ASUKA..... MY OLD MEIS A TOTAL GENIUS.
SUMMER-KUN... YOU REALLY ARE A TOTAL GENIUS, JUST LIKE I ANTICIPATED, HUH...?
SO GREAT... SO WONDERFUL... SO FANTASTI...


SFX: DOKI DOKI
ドキ
HERE GOES...
HAA
W... WELL IN THAT CASE...
HAA
HAA
ドキ


REALLY?
COULD YOU MAKE IT A..... SUPER HOT ONE...?
OKAY...
WE CAN'T DO SOMETHING THAT EROTIC OUT HERE IN PUBLIC LIKE
HEY, HEY, HEY HEY, HEY HEY, HEY HEY, HEY, HOLD ON A SEC, ASUKA~~~~

MU?
IT'S STARTIN'!! HURRY UP, BEGINNER!!
What the hell sorta reaction is that?!!
SFX: GON
WATCH ME, OKAY, ASHUKA-SENPAAAAAA!!!
OKAAAAY, HERE I GOOOOO!!
SFX: DODODODODODO GYAO
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE RULES
NOPE, HE'S NOT GONNA BE OKAY AT ALL.
IS... IS HANAGATA-KUN.. GONNA BE OKAY?
HE'S GOT GOOD LEGS.....
.....HM.
IT'LL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT SORTA PLAYS HE PULLS AGAINST 3RD YEAR OPPONENTS.....!
IT'S JUST THAT HE HATES TO LOSE SO MUCH...

HI!
RIGHT!
KATAYAMA KOUTAROU (3RD YEAR)
SFX: ZAH
CHECK HIM!!
DON'T BE GENTLE ABOUT IT, KOUTA!!
HI!
SFX: ZAH
YUUAH
MUO
GO AROUND HIM, YUMI-CHAN!!
SFX: BAH
WE'VE GOT ONE MORE PERSON!!


THANKS!
SAORI!
SEKI!
SFX: DYUH
SFX: BIH

THAT EXTRA PERSON IS.
PASS!!
WELL, SURE, WE'VE GOT ONE MORE PERSON, BUT~~~~

SFX: BAH
I SAID HAND IT OVER ALREADYYYY!!
AH, YOU IDIOT!
HEY, HURRY UP, HAND IT OVER!
Over here!
Condor?
SERI-OUSLY, THIS GUY~~~~ .....
OOOOOOOOKAY! PASS IT, SAORI!! C'MON, C'MON, C'MON!! HURRY IT UP!! I'M IN THE CONDOR POSITION, REMEMBER?!!!

.....
Pi
ONLY ONE PERSON IS ALLOWED TO CARRY A RING!!
This stupid beginner!
HM?
DON'T TOUCH A TEAMMATE'S RIIIING!!
HEEEEY, SUMMEEE-ER!
OOOOO! WATCH IIIIIT!
WHADDA YA MEAN?
HUH .....
SFX: BIKUH (SURPRISE)
HOA?!
All right!!
SUMMER, COMING UP BEHIND YOU!!
AH!

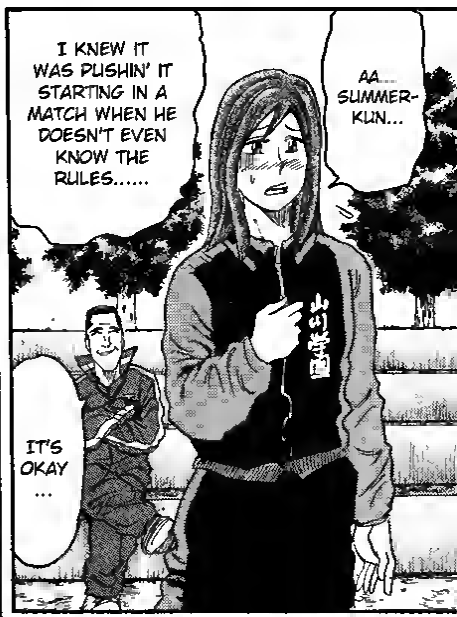
ORAA!
KYAAAA
You, Gah!
THIS IS SEXUAL HARRASM-EEEENT!!
KYAAA! CAPTAIN!
SFX: GAH
SFX: ZUSHI
MU
SFX: DAH
Get Movin'!!
That was quick!!
ALL RIGHT, HE GOT IT!
OVER-KEEP, BLACK #10!!
THAT'S A FOO-OOOUL!
SUMMER'S SUDDENLY GOING FULL-NEWBIE ON US!!
HOW THE HELL WAS THAT A FOUL?!!
WHAA-AAT?!
SFX: AAAAAA
SUMMER'S STILL HOLDING THE R!!!!NG!
H... HU UU UU UU UH ?!

SUMMER
....
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S A TEAMMATE OR AN OPPONENT, IT'S AGAINST THE RULES FOR MULTIPLE PEOPLE TO HOLD A RING.
HUH?!
ONLY ONE PERSON IS ALLOWED TO HOLD THE RING, ALWAYS!!
7
5

I JUST TOLDJAAA!!
YOU DAMN NEWBIIIIE!!
BUHEA
SFX: BAKI

WHAT YOU SAYIN'?
WHAT'S WITH THAT....?
...HUH?
.....

DO YOU THINK SO?
SUPER-VISOR
HAHAHA
THE BODY WILL REMEMBER SOMETHING MUCH BETTER BY MAKING MISTAKE AFTER MISTAKE RATHER THAN BY BEING TOLD HOW TO DO IT....


I KNEW IT WAS PUSHIN' IT STARTING IN A MATCH WHEN HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE RULES.....
AA.... SUMMER-KUN...
IT'S OKAY ...

I SUPPOSE "OVER-KEEP" IS PRETTY CLOSE TO THAT RULE...
FOR EXAMPLE, IN RUGBY WHEN A PLAYER IS TACKLED AND THEY FALL DOWN, THEY HAVE TO GIVE THE BALL UP...

OKAY, SUMMER... ONCE THE OPPONENT HAS GRIPPED THE RING, IT'S THE OPPONENT'S RING.
AND WE HAVE TO LET GO FOR THE TIME BEING...
UNLESS YOU LET GO WITHIN 3 SECONDS, IT'S AN OVER-KEEP WHICH IS A FOUL.
HM~ ~~~~
THINK ABOUT IT...
IF WE DIDN'T LET GO,
THEN YOU'D END UP WITH TWO PLAYERS TUGGING ON THE RING...
ALSO, PLAYERS ON THE SAME TEAM AREN'T ALLOWED TO GRAB IT AT THE SAME TIME, EITHER!
THEN THE RING GOES TO THE OPPOSING TEAM...
EARLIER, WHEN YOU GRABBED SAORI'S RING,
PW
SAORI LET GO OF IT WITHIN 3 SECONDS, SO IT WASN'T A FOUL...
Just barely
SO BASICALLY, SINCE YA DON'T KNOW THAT OR ANY 'A THE OTHER RULES, YOU'RE JUST GONNA GET IN THE WAY SO JUST STAND THERE TOTALLY STILL...
Kay...? Stop flappin' around.
GU .....
JUST SIT STILL LIKE A CRAYFISH IN THE CORNER ...
.....

JUST BLOW THE WHISTLE ALREADY, IZUMI-SAN!
WE'RE STARTING AGAAAIN!
HEY, YOU TWO IDIOTS OVER THEEERE!
FINE!
WHAT'RE YOU BRINGING UP OLD STORIES NOW FOR?!!
H... HEY, GUYS...
SFX PIIIH
HUH?
DIDJYA FERGET MY MIRACLE SHOT FROM BACK THEN?!! AH?!
SHEDDEEEEEP! SAORI, YOU BASTAAARD!! YOU SURE ARE TALKIN' BIG FOR A GUY THAT LOST TO ME IN A RING MATCH!!
AAH?
WHAT, YOU MEAN THAT FLUKE SHOT?!
IT WASN'T A FLUKE!!
LET'S GET ANOTHER 20 FREAKIN' POINTS!! 20 POOOOINTS!!
FORWARD, FORWARD!!
ALL RIIIIGHT! LET'S GO ON THE OFFENSIVE WHILE WE'VE GOT THE CHAAANCE!!
SFX. GOGOGOGOGOGOGO
TWENTY POI~~~~NTS?
T...
SFX. PIKU

ARE REALLY FAST!!
OOH! HANAGATA-KUN AND SAORI-KUN
SFX: WAH
DON'T SCREW WITH US, BASTAAARDS !!
10
5
LIKE HELL YER GETTIN' A SINGLE 'NOTHER POINT!!!
SFX. DON
SO NOW HE WANTS TO STOP IT NO MATTER WHAT HE HAS TO DO ...
IT MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE HE DIDN'T KNOW THE RULES, BUT TO SUMMER THIS IS A TIGHT SITUATION THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF HIS OWN MISTAKE...
SO WE'LL NEED TO WIN ON MOMENTUM FIRST!!
IF WE GO UP AGAINST THE 3RD YEAR TEAM IN A BATTLE OF HEIGHT, WE CAN'T WIN..!
PUT PRESSURE ON THE COMMANDER!! KEEP HITTING 'EM!!
CHECK EVERY ONE OF THEM!
MAN-TO-MAN DEFENSE!
GO, SAORI!!
THERE!

GUIH
AYE!
AND WHEN HE'S FEELIN' GOOD ABOUT IT, HE PULLS THEM ALL THE WAY UP TO HIS SHOULDERS ...
SEE, HE'S ALWAYS HAD THIS HABIT OF UNCONSCIOUSLY PULLING UP HIS SLEEVES WHEN HE'S CONCENTRATING ON SOMETHING ...
HUH?
LOOKS LIKE YOUSUKE IS FINALLY GOING AT THIS WITH SERIOUS CONCEN-TRATION ..
SFX. GUF
!
He's in top gear now...!

THAT'S SOME GOOD DEFENSE.....
.....
Kurita-san.
I'M GETTIN' PAYBACK,
KURI!!
COMING UP BEHIND YOU!!
!
SFX: JIR
.....
SU.
SFX: BAH
HOW?!

SFX: GAH
ALL RIIIIGHT!
YOU DID IT, YOU-SUKE!
They got it!!

GUH
SFX: BAH
HNG!
!?
Huh?

He threw him oooooo ooofff?!
WHA AAA AAA AAA ATZ!
SFX: AAAAA
.....
SFX: DON
!!
UWAAA! He's saaaaafe!!
STAND UP STRAIGHT, SAORI!
SFX WAAA
LOOK AT THE RING!!

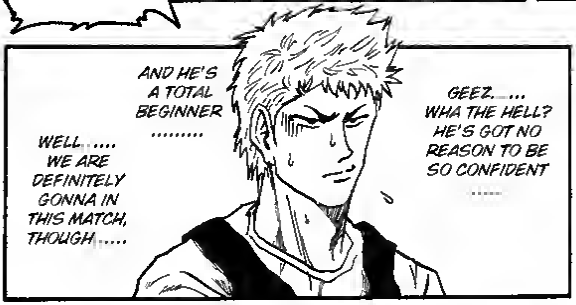
YOU'VE GOTTA GET YOUR HAND OFF IT WITHIN 3 SECONDS, SO IN OTHER WORDS
THE 3-SECOND RULE...!
YOU'RE ALLOWED TO RESIST FOR 3 SECONDS, IT LOOKS LIKE...
BUT HOW?
AAAAH, HE GOT PAST HIM!!
WASN'T THAT...
AN "OVER-KEEP" JUST NOW?!
GUA
BASTARD...
HOLD UP, DAMMIIIIT!!
AH!
SFX: DOU
STOP, SUMMER!
DON'T OVERDO IT!!

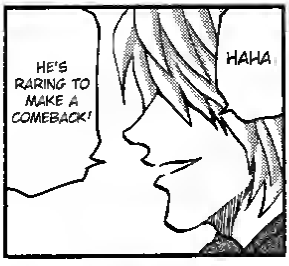
AW.
GEEZ.
ピー!!!
ガバ
Ooh?!
GRUAA!
SFX. PIIIIH
SFX. AA
NICE, KURI!
OW~~~~ DAMMIT!
THAT SUMMER GUY
OO-OKAY!
THAT'S A "FREE THROW"!
SFX. GAH
SFX. WAAAA
PUSHING, BLACK #10!
AND WITHIN THE AREA!!
AAAAAAH! THAT'S ANOTHER FOUL, SUMMEEEER!!
IT'S LIKE GIVING YOUR OPPONENT A POINT FOR FREE.
FREE THROW LINE
GOAL AREA
BE CAREFUL, SUMMER. A FOUL INSIDE THE GOAL AREA DIRECTLY RESULTS IN A FREE THROW FOR THE OPPOSING TEAM...
THAT WASN'T A 'LITTLE'!
HMPH... WHAT? I JUST PUSHED HIM A LITTLE!
プン プン
NU?
SFX. PUNPUN (ANGRY)

HUUUUUU.....
WHAT AN ANNOYING MATCH...
5
.....
WHO'S YASSAN?
SAY STUFF LIKE THAT FASTER, YASSAN!!
HUUUUUH?! WHAT THE HELL?! THAT'S MY FIRST TIME HEARING THIS!!
SFX: SHU
SFX: PIIIIIH
4
SFX: GAKOH
That's the 4th point!!
Scoo-oore!

THIS MATCH'S GOT A LONG WAY STILL TO GO!!
IT AIN'T EVEN CLOSE TO OVER, YOU BASTARD!!
YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!!
ACTUALLY IT'S PRETTY MUCH ONLY JUST STARTED!!!

THAT MIGHT BE THE WHOLE GAME RIGHT THERE...
AA~~~~ HOW MANY POINTS ARE THEY GONNA GET.....?
NOPE ...

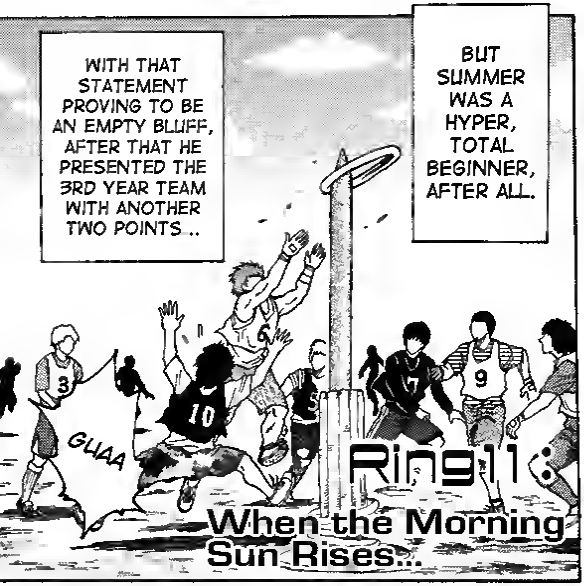

WELL..... WE ARE DEFINITELY GONNA IN THIS MATCH, THOUGH.....
AND HE'S A TOTAL BEGINNER .....
GEEZ..... WHA THE HELL? HE'S GOT NO REASON TO BE SO CONFIDENT .....


HE'S RARING TO MAKE A COMEBACK!
HAHA

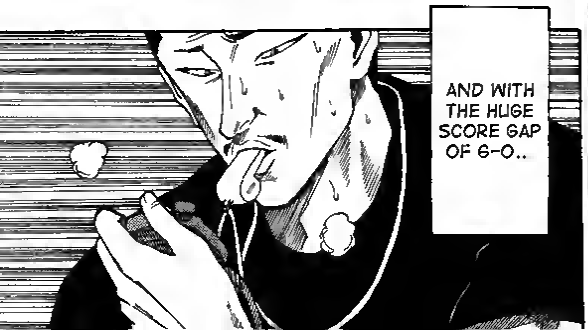
IT LOOKS LIKE.....
WE'VE GOT QUITE A GOOD CROP THIS YEAR.....

HM.....

THE REAL MATCH STARTS NOW, BABYYYY!!!
WE'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TA GOOOOOO!
A 4 POINT DIFFERENCE AIN'T THAT MUCH, DAMM!!!!!!IT!!


WITH THAT STATEMENT PROVING TO BE AN EMPTY BLUFF, AFTER THAT HE PRESENTED THE 3RD YEAR TEAM WITH ANOTHER TWO POINTS..
BUT SUMMER WAS A HYPER, TOTAL BEGINNER, AFTER ALL.
GUAA
Ring11
When the Morning Sun Rises...

HE'S GOT QUITE A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT...
THAT HANAGATA-KUN...
HUHU... I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...

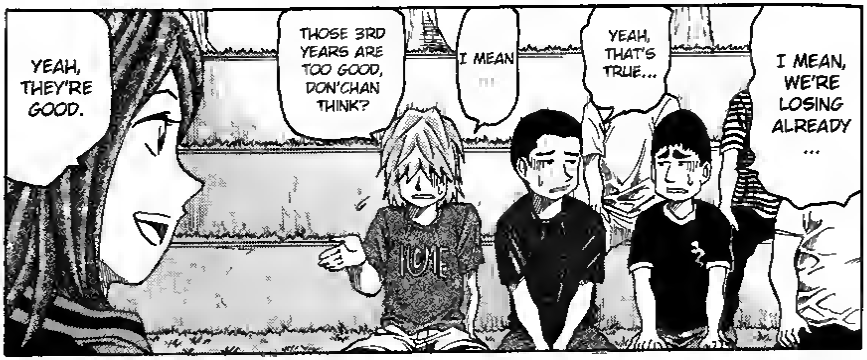

AND WITH THE HUGE SCORE GAP OF 6-0..

Ring11 :
When the Morning Sun Rises...

DON'T BE AFRAID TO MAKE FOULS!
LET'S BE ASSER-TIVE!
RIGHT!
LET'S UP THE PRESSURE EVEN HIGHER IN THE SECOND HALF!!
KEH. I REALLY WANTED TO GET A 10-POINT GAP~~~~~
C'MON, WE GOT PLENTY.
ALLLLL RIIIGHT! THAT'S THE WAY!!
GOOD GOING, GUYS!!
IT'S TOO BAD. IF THOSE GUYS HAD "AKA", THEN THIS GAME WOULDA BEEN A BIT MORE INTERESTING .....
SFX. ZUUUUUUN
SFX. JIIII (STARE)

FER REAL?
AT HALF-TIME YA TAKE THE SCORED RINGS OFF AND RESET.
IT'S FINE. WE CHANGE COURTS IN THE 2ND HALF ANYWAY.
AMAH! HANAGATA-KUN IS MESSING WITH THE RINGS AGAIN!
GODDANGIIIIIT! STUPID THINGS! STUPID THIIINGS!!
IT'LL SAVE US SOME TROUBLE.
I toldja not ta mess with the scoreboard!!
KORAAAA
And the points stay with the teams!!
Back to 0 VS 0
SFX: PERA PERA
Okay, then let's reset the scores back to 0!
THIS WASN SUPPOSEDTA HAPPE~~~N!
NGU...
G-GODDAMMI~~~T! THIS WASN'...
HEY, SHEDDEP!
HE'S DOIN' NOTHIN' BUT HOLDING US BACK.
YUMI-SAN, SERIOUSLY, LET'S TAKE THIS GUY OUT.
AT THIS RATE WE'RE GONNA LOSE!
HE STILL THINKS WE MIGHT WITH THEN...?
.....WE'RE GONNA LOSE AT THIS RATE.....
HUH?

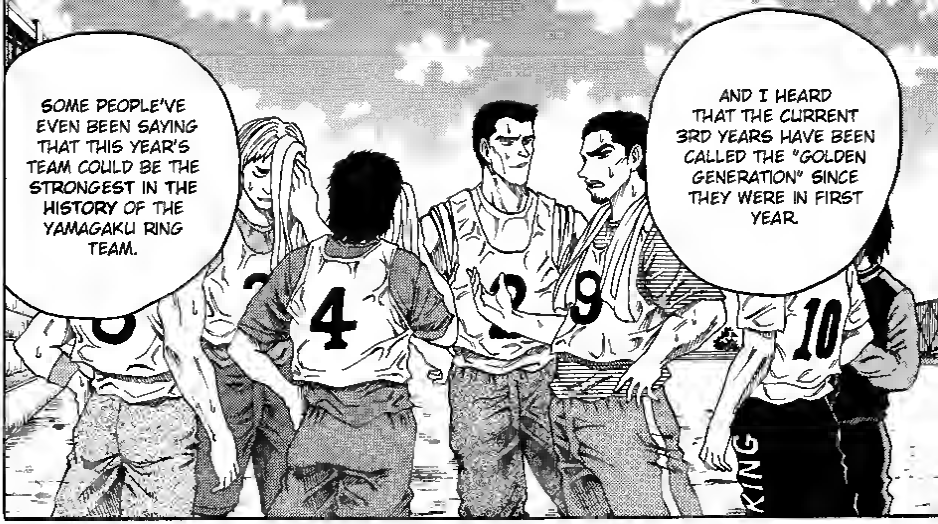
EVEN IF YOU'RE A BEGINNER
IF ANY 1ST YEARS BESIDES HANAGATA WANT TO JOIN IN, IT'S OKAY.
HUUH ?!
N-NO WAY! WE COULDN'T!
QUITE REAS-SURING...
SUPER-VISOR!
HM...


YEAH, THEY'RE GOOD.
THOSE 3RD YEARS ARE TOO GOOD, DON'CHA THINK?
I MEAN
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE...
I MEAN, WE'RE LOSING ALREADY ...

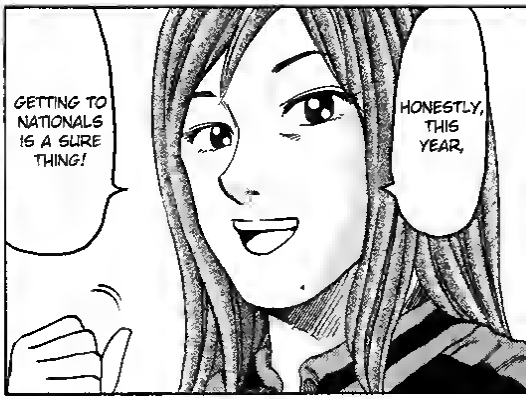
THIS SCHOOL'S GOT LOTS OF NATIONAL-LEVEL ONES...
MMMM, WELL, COMPARED TO THE OTHER TEAMS...
YEAH ...
BUT... BEST 4 IN THE PREFECTURE'S REALLY GOOD, DON'T YOU THINK...?

HUUUUH?! FOR REAL ?!
WE DID MAKE IT TO THE TOP 4 IN THE PREFECTURE LAST YEAR, YA KNOW

SO I THOUGHT FOR SURE THEY WOULDN'T BE GOOD WITHIN THE PREFECTURE
I... I NEVER HEARD MUCH ABOUT THE RING TEAM'S REPUTATION WITHIN THE SCHOOL, SO.....


SOME PEOPLE'VE EVEN BEEN SAYING THAT THIS YEAR'S TEAM COULD BE THE STRONGEST IN THE HISTORY OF THE YAMAGAKU RING TEAM.
AND I HEARD THAT THE CURRENT 3RD YEARS HAVE BEEN CALLED THE "GOLDEN GENERATION" SINCE THEY WERE IN FIRST YEAR.
KING

YOU MEAN THE INTER-HIGH?!!
Y-


GETTING TO NATIONALS IS A SURE THING!
HONESTLY, THIS YEAR,

WE DON'T NEED TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU.
You can bet your ass we're gonna make a comeback in the 2nd half...!!
I don't care if they're the Golden Generation or whatever, I ain't losin' this...!

EVEN WITH SO FEW PEOPLE...
I DIDN'T KNOW THIS TEAM WAS THAT STRONG...
A-AWE-SOME!
HMPH

YOU'RE THE SUPERVISOR, YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?!!
EH?
DO YOU KNOW ANY SORTA SECRET TECHNIQUES TO GET 10 POINTS OR SO AT ONCE?
SUPERVISOR!! PLEASE, GIMME SOME SORTA INSTRUCTIONS!!
HM?
C'MON C'MON!
8 METERS OUT FROM THE GOAL IS AN ARCH-SHAPED LINE CALLED THE "GOAL LINE".
IF YOU SCORE A SHOT FROM OUTSIDE THIS LINE, YOU RECEIVE ONE FREE THROW AS A BONUS.
GOAL LINE
8m
BUT IF YOU GET THEM 2 AT A TIME, YOU CAN COME BACK...!
WELL, I DUNNO ABOUT 10 POINTS---
MORON!
Okay, I'm gonna go for those every time in the 2nd half!
I getcha!
SO IF YOU SCORE FROM THERE, YOU CAN GET TWO POINTS AT ONCE. IT'S NICKNAMED THE "BONUS SHOT"!!
THEN THERE'S STUFF LIKE ON DAYS WHEN THERE'S RAIN AND WIND WHERE THE CHANCES OF GETTING THE SHOT ARE EVEN WORSE
THEY AIN'T GONNA JUST LET YOU HAVE A FREE SHOT LIKE THAT.
AND IN A MATCH, YOU'VE GOT THE ENEMY PUTTING PRESSURE ON YOU ..
THAT'S HOW HARD THE BONUS SHOT IS...
IN OTHER WORDS, GETTIN' JUST 1 SHOT IN 3 WOULD BE CONSIDERED GOOD.
EVEN A REALLY GOOD SHOOTER CAN ONLY MAKE THE BONUS SHOT AROUNDE 30 PERCENT 'A THE THE TIME...

I TOLDJA, THAT WAS A FRIGGIN' FLUKE!!
How long're ya gonna harp on about that?!!
DID YA FORGET THAT HYPER-LONG SHOT I THREW?
Ah?
HEY, HEY, SAORI... YOU SAW MY SKILL MORE CLOSE UP THAN ANYBODY, RIGHT?
HEEY, YOU TWO MORONS OVER THEEEERE! WE'RE GONNA START THE SECOND HALF!
THAT WAS 100% LUCK, DANGIT!!
IN GOLF THAT'D BE ALIKE A HOLE IN ONE!!
THAT WAS A FRIGGIN' MIRACLE!
AND IT WAS MY SKILL THAT CAUSED THAT MIRACLE!!
MOROON!! EVEN PROS CAN'T MAKE THAT SHOT!!
That was 100 percent My sky!!!!
WHAT A RUDE BASTARD YOU ARE!! I'VE TOLD YA A HUNDRED TIMES IT WASN' A FLUKE!!
ORAAA
Let's go!
.....
PLEASE... I'M BEGGIN' YOU MAN, PLEASE DON'T SCREW UP THE GAME ANY FURTHER...
ALL RIIIGHT! FOR NOW, LET'S JUST DO THE 2ND HALF OF THIS GAME!!
SUM-MER...
I DIDN'T SEE IT, BUT I HEARD ABOUT IT
HM...? YEAH
SUPERVISOR, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT SUMMER-KUN'S MIRACLE SHOT?

IT'D BE GREAT FOR US IF THAT WASN'T A FLUKE...
IT STILL GIVES ME GOOSEBUMPS JUST THINKIN' ABOUT IT...
I'D REALLY LIKE TO THINK THAT...
WITH THE WHOLE STUDENT BODY AS WITNESSES, I CAN'T VERY WELL DENY IT...
IT'S A HARD STORY TO SWALLOW, BUT...
THAT SORT OF 40-METER CLASS SHOT HAS ITS OWN NAME, TOO...
"VICTORY SHOT"!
.....
THEN THAT WOULD PROBABLY BECOME A "LEGEND" ...
IF YOU WERE ABLE TO SCORE A VICTORY SHOT IN A HIGH SCHOOL MATCH...
MEANING THAT'S A PLAY THAT CAN EARN 6 POINTS AT ONCE!
IF BY SOME CHANCE YOU GET THAT SHOT IN A GAME, YOU GET 5 BONUS THROWS...!
THERE'S ONLY ONE OFFICIAL CASE OF THIS EVER HAPPENING EVEN IN THE PROS...

T/N: CONDOLLER IS THE NAME OF A CHARACTER FROM KAMEN RIDER.

SFX: PIIIH

BUT IT'S OKAY.. THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CATCH YOU WITH YOUR QUICK FEET.
THEY'LL PROBABLY COME TO CRUSH YOU THE FIRST CHANCE THEY GET, KNOWING YOU'RE A BEGINNER AND ALL...
.....

HUUUUUUUH?! YOU'RE KIDDING MEEEEE!!
10
You don't wanna?
I DON' WANNA!
.....
SFX PUIH
EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW ALL THE RULES, I JUST HATE LOSING...!!
LIKE HELL I'M LOSING THIS...!!
I'M GONNA TURN THIS AROUND WITH A BONUS SHOT!!
THE MOMENT I GET IT, I'M GONNA SHOOT..!!
I'M GONNA SCORE!!
PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING, SUMMER
HEY, HEY...
GU...
HEY, HEEEY!

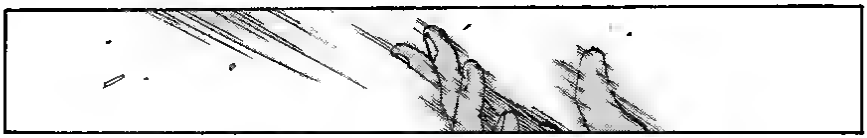
GOT IT!
SFX: GAH
SFX BASHI
HEEEY-UP!!
SFX: BAH
GU!
URAA!!
MUH!
SFX: DAH
SFX: GAH
MISUGI!!
AH!

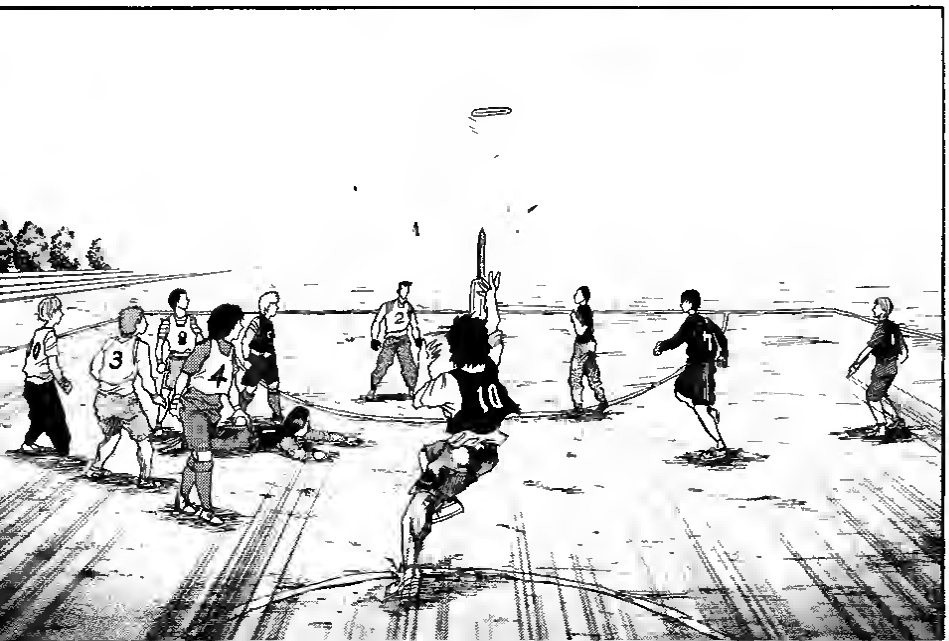
OWUA AAAH
WE'RE SURROUND-EEEED!!
SFX. WAH
WE'RE OUTNUM-BERED!
BACK US UP!
SFX. ZUDAH
MU
PASS !!!!!!T!!!!
BEHIND YOOOOU!!
SFX. BAH
HOOOOO!

!!
ALL RIIIGHT!!
10
IT'S SUMMER !!
SFX: SU
SFX: BASHI
GOT IIIIT!!
IT'S FINE, LET HIM SHOOT.
KURI!
STOP HIM!!
9
!
SUM-MER, YOU MORON, STOP IIIT!!
THIS GUY'S SERIOUSLY GONNA SHOOOOOT!

HIAP
TAKE THIS, GOLDEN GENER-ATION!!
BONUS SHOO-OOOOT!!
10
.....
I WANNA SEE THIS FOR MYSELF ...

SFX: GUA

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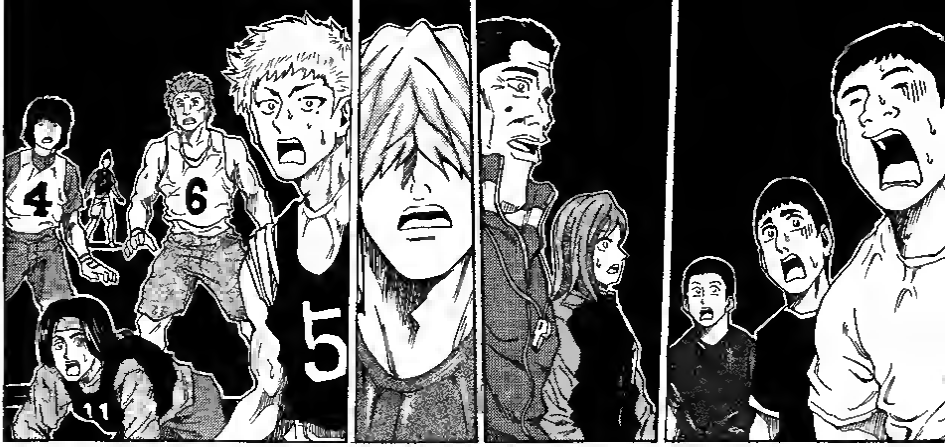
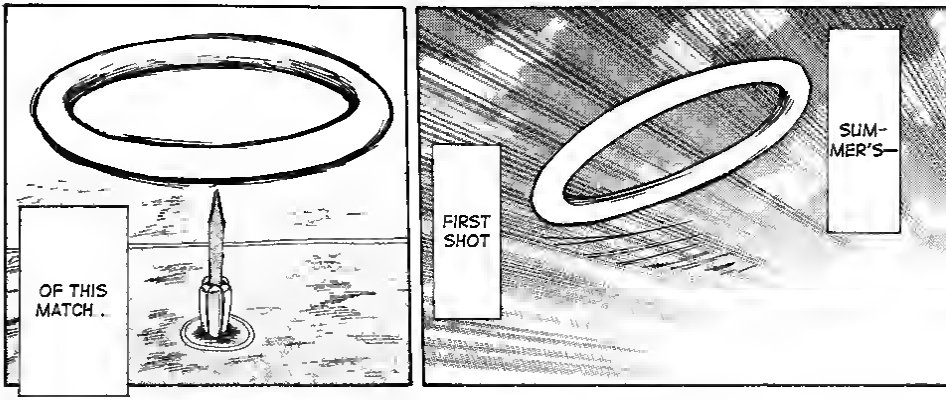
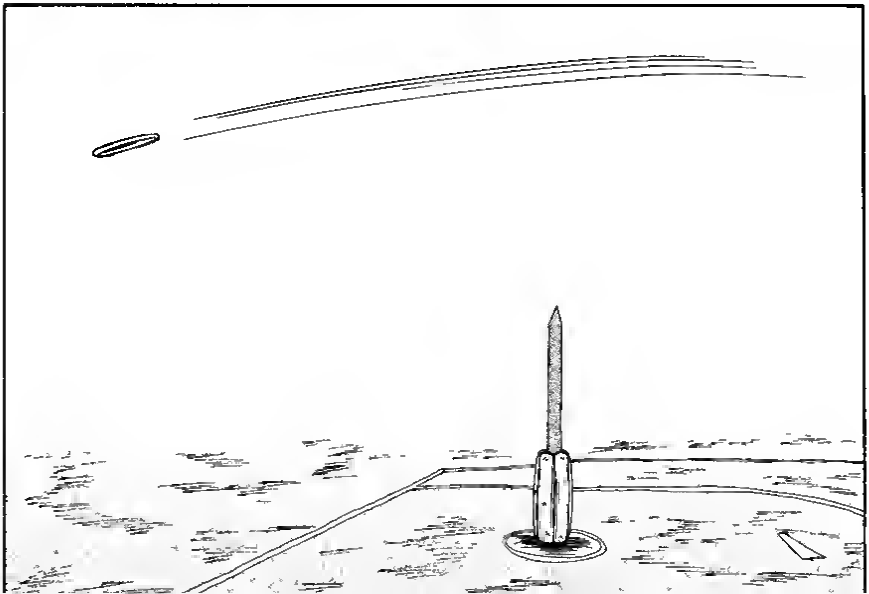
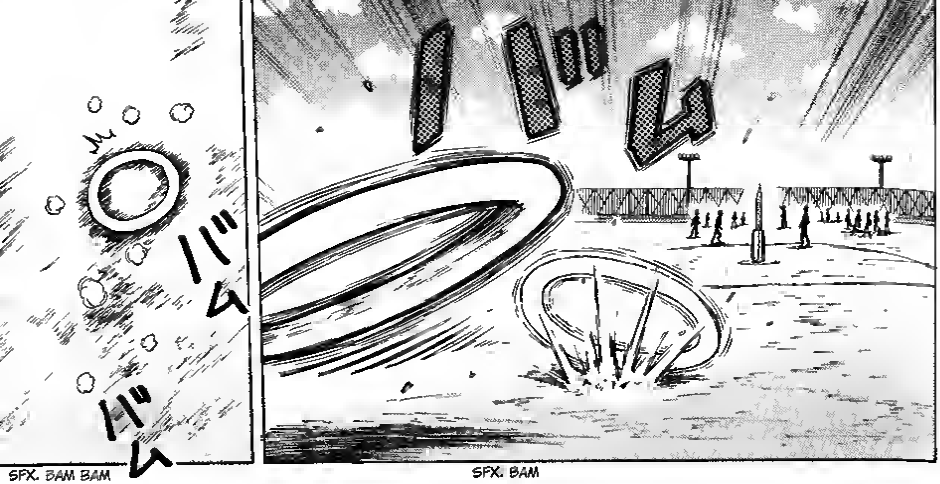

4
6
5
11

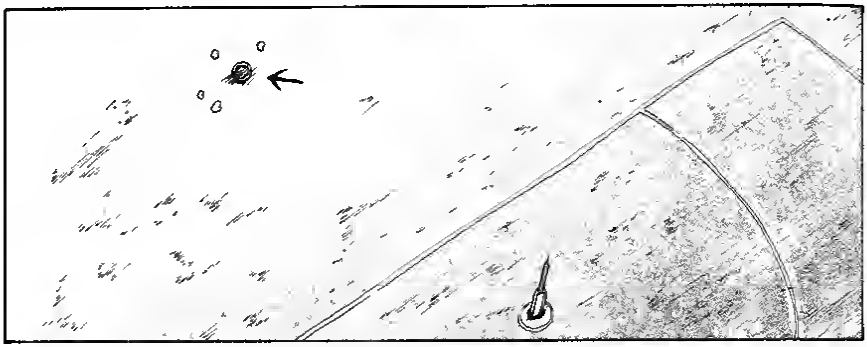

OF THIS MATCH .
FIRST SHOT
SUM-MER'S—

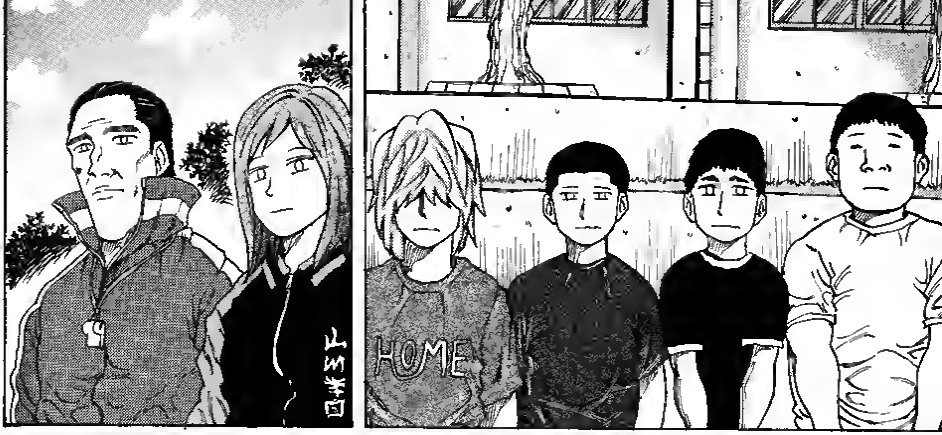


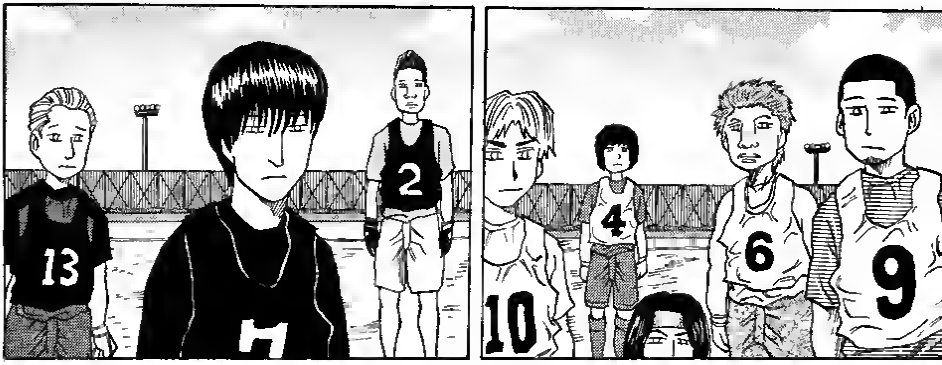


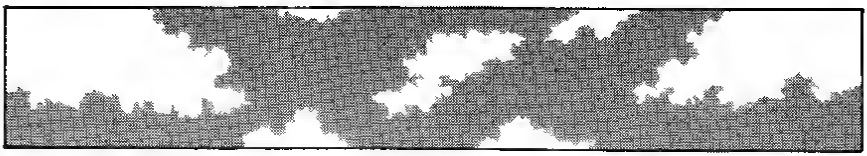
SFX. BAM BAM

SFX. BAM

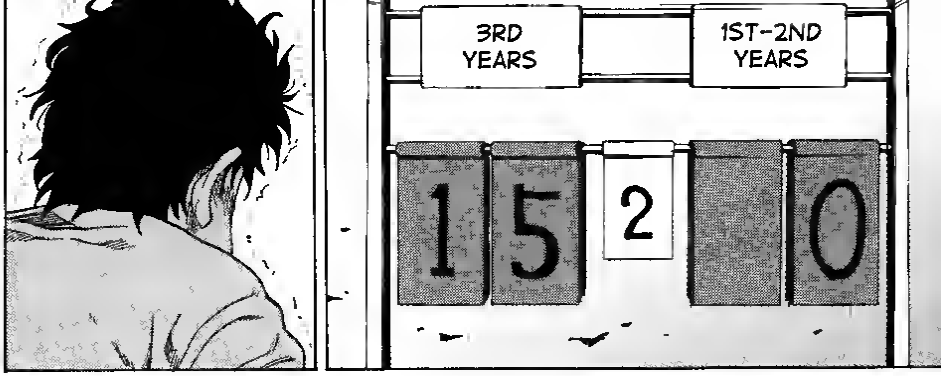


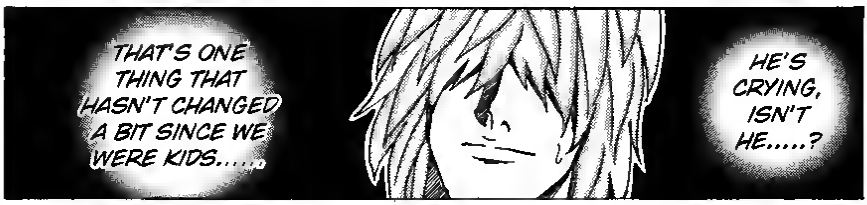

HOME


13
2
4
6
9
10



THANK YOU VERY MUUUCH!!
BOW!
CLEAN UP THE POLL, 1ST YEARS!
IISSU!
GOOD JOB GUUUYS!
DON'T FORGET THE EQUIPTMEEENT!
.....
GOOD HUSTLE OUT THERE!
IISSU!
SFX. ZUUUUUN
HEY, WE'RE CLEANING UP!!
SUMMER!

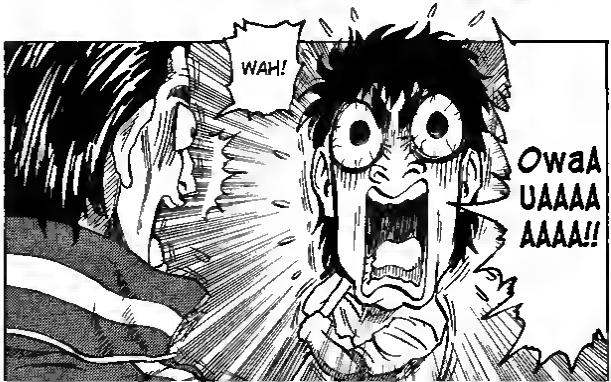

3RD YEARS
1ST-2ND YEARS
1
5
2
0


THAT'S ONE THING THAT HASN'T CHANGED A BIT SINCE WE WERE KIDS.....
HE'S CRYING, ISN'T HE.....?

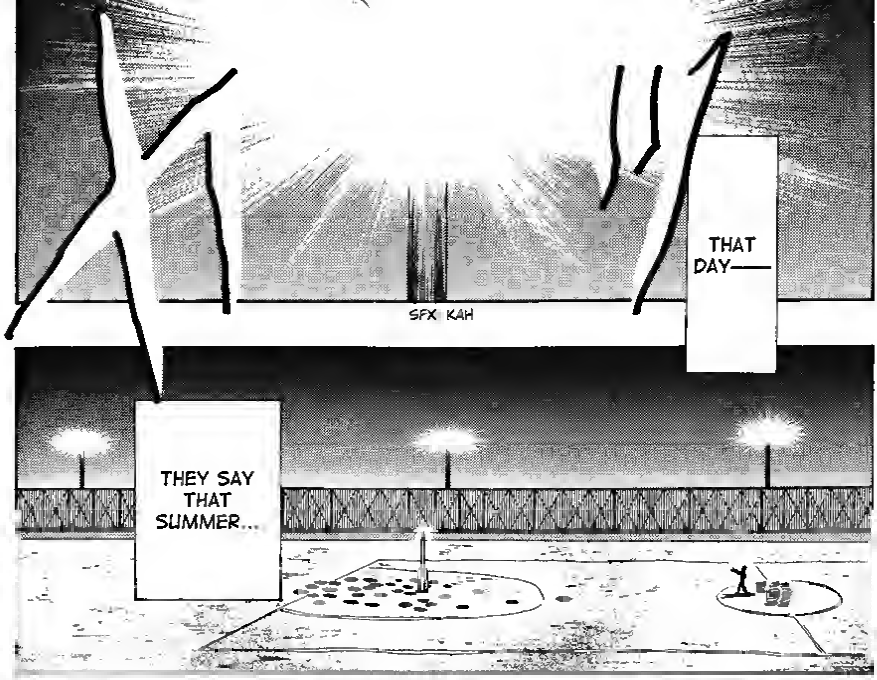
SFX GUZU
U...

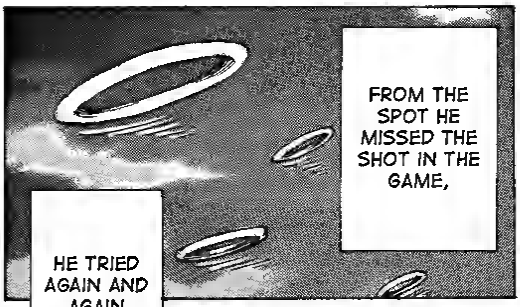
I AIN'T CRYIN', STUPID!!
I...
WHAT... ARE YOU CRYIN'?
SHIT!
GEEZ.
THEN HURRY UP 'N HELP US CLEAN UP!
GEEZ!! OKAY!!
GIMME THAT, DAMMIT!
GOD-DAMM-IT...
CLUCK
HOH...
SUMMER-KUN...
HANAGATA-KUN...
BUT HE'S SO UPSET HE'S CRYING...?
HE ONLY LOST A SCRIMMAGE MATCH,
TO ALL PLAYS IS PRACTICE AND PRACTICE ALONE...
WHAT GIVES BIRTH...
!
IF YOU PRACTICE, ALL PLAYS BECOME POSSIBLE.
OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY,
HM?

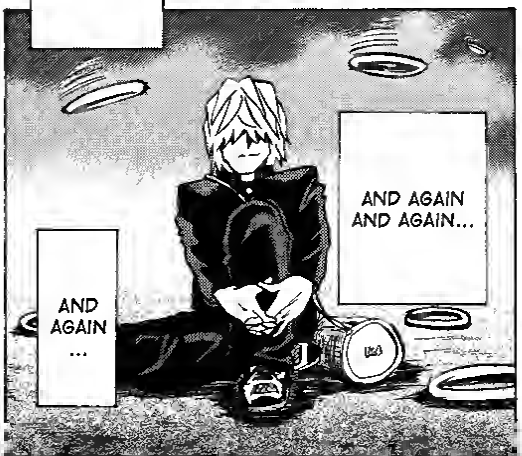
YOU'RE SURE TO GET BETTER
TRY PUTTING IN TONS OF PRACTICE.
SENSEI GUARANTEES IT.


WAH!
OwaA UAAAA AAAA!!

HUH~~~~~? WHY?!
HEEEY, 1ST YEARS! YOU GUYS STAY HERE AND PRACTICE, TOO!!
WHY? YOU GUUUYS ...
HUH?
YOU'RE GONNA START NOW?!
SUPERVISOR, COULD YOU SET UP THE NIGHT LIGHTS?!!
OKAY, I'M GONNA GO PRACTICE STARTING NOW!!
I'M GONNA BE LONELY HERE ALL BY MYSELF...
And it's night time
WHAT SORTA REASON IS THAT?!
WE DON'T WANT TO! DO IT ON YOUR OWN!
I'VE GOT CRAM SCHOOL AT NIGHT ...
Y~~YOU INSENSTIVIE BASTAARDS!!
SUMMER-KUN, GIVE IT YER ALL!!
THAT 1ST YEAR.
AHAHA! HE'S SO FUNNY,
I'LL DO MY BEST, ASHUKA-SENPAI!♡
OKAY!
The type that will rather do something besides Ring when he loses to quickly forget the frustration of losing...
HEEEY, SUMMER! YOU'RE FREE TO PRACTICE ON YOUR OWN, BUT THEN YOU'VE GOTTA DO THE WHOLE CLEAN UP ON YOUR OWN, TOO!!
HURRY UP! I WANNA GO HOME AND PLAY VIDEO GAMES.


THAT DAY——
SFX KAH
THEY SAY THAT SUMMER...


FROM THE SPOT HE MISSED THE SHOT IN THE GAME,
HE TRIED AGAIN AND AGAIN


AND AGAIN AND AGAIN...
AND AGAIN ...

DIDN'T STOP PRACTICING UNTIL SUNUP...

WHEN THE MORNING SUN ROSE...
...THAT WAS THE NEXT DAY
SFX: KAAA KAAA
IT'S ALWAYS THAT
SFX. KUUU KUU
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME...
ARE OPENED UNCERE-MONIOUSLY ...
LEGENDARY DOORS

Shimabus' Thought up all on my own....

Rules of Ring!

~Really Broad~

How to Handle the Ring

- Fundamentally it's considered ok to use anything that's on the upper half of your body, but putting the ring around your wrist, neck, or torso is against the rules. You can't touch the ring with anything below the waist, (like kicking it or anything) but it is allowed when it's thrown there by an opposing team. Also, even if you touch the ring with the lower half of your body, if it's not done in a way that's to your team's advantage, there is no penalty.
- Regardless of allies or opponents, the Ring cannot be touched by two people or more. Two people can only be touching it for within 3 seconds. In the case of two allies, then unless one lets go, there is a penalty. In the case of an opponent, the first one touching it must give it up.

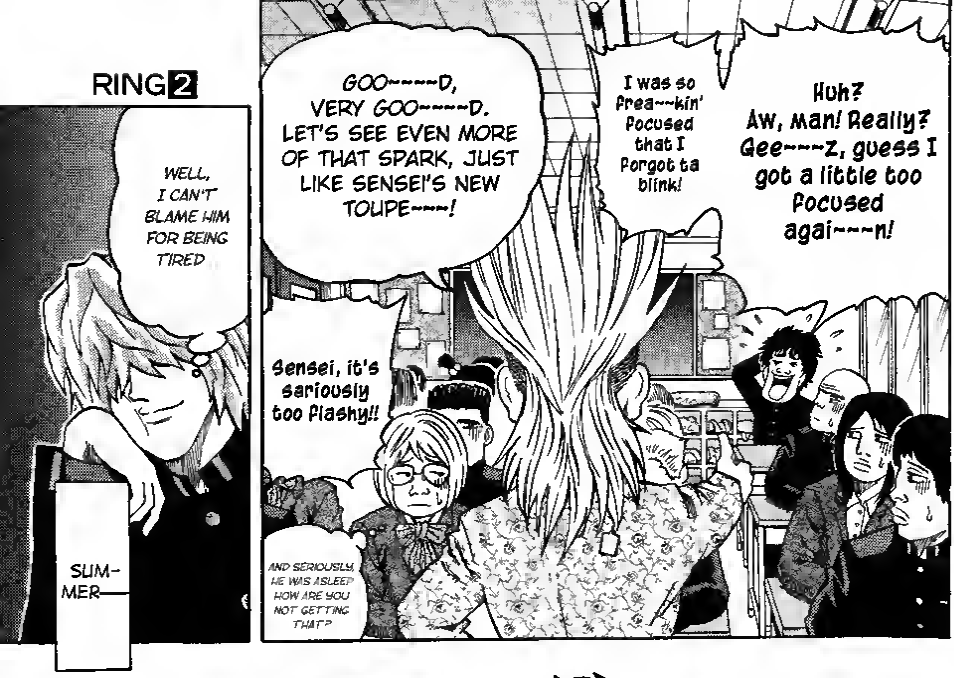
Throw-Off

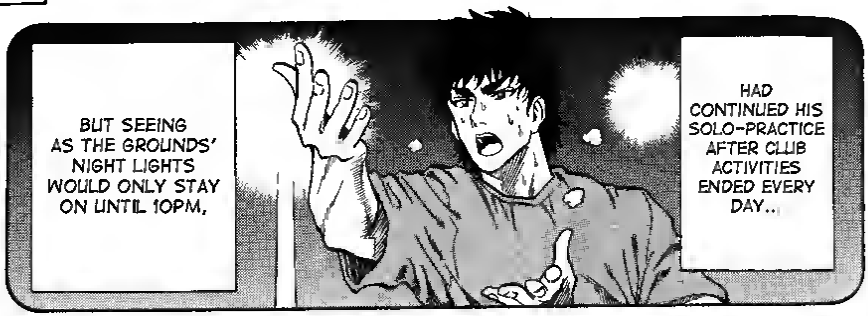
- The Throw-Off must take place within 5 seconds after the referee blows his whistle. Also, as long as it's from within the center of the court, the ring can be thrown in either direction. When that happens, the opposing team's players must be further than 5 meters away or more from the throwing player.
- When play is beginning, the team that won the coin-toss has the right to choose which side to use or to do the throw-off. If they choose the throw-off, the opposing team gets the right to choose sides. The team to do the throw-off in the 2nd half is the one that did not do the throw-off in the 1st half. After a goal is scored, play resumes with a throw-off by the scoring team.

Continued in Volume 3~

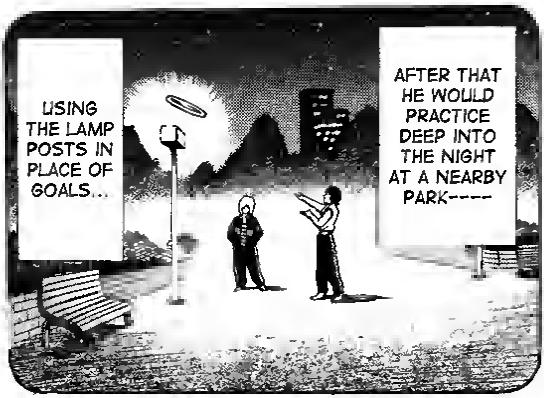
Ring12 : 7 People...!

SUMME-EEEEER!
SUMMER .....
1-3
SFX: KUUU KUUU
SFX: GUH
YOU DIDN'T BLINK A SINGLE TIME TODAY!
WHE~~~~W, GOO~~~~D, HANAGATA-KUN!
THAT ATTITUDE OF NOT WANTING TO MISS A SINGLE MOMENT OF LESSONS IS SO~~~~~ GOOD! GOOOOOOOOOD!!
HEY, SUMMER!
HE-HP
PAN
WHY'RE YOU SUDDENLY TALKING IN KYUUSHUU DIALECT...?
SENSEI'S CALLING YOU.
DID SUMTHIN' 'APPEN, TOK!?


WELL, I CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR BEING TIRED
SUM-MER—
GOO~~~~D, VERY GOO~~~~D. LET'S SEE EVEN MORE OF THAT SPARK, JUST LIKE SENSEI'S NEW TOUPE~~~~!
I was so frea~~kin' focused that I forgot ta blink!
Huh? Aw, Man! Really? Gee~~~z, guess I got a little too focused agai~~~n!
Sensei, it's seriously too flashy!!
AND SERIOUSLY, HE WAS ASLEEP! HOW ARE YOU NOT GETTING THAT?


BUT SEEING AS THE GROUNDS' NIGHT LIGHTS WOULD ONLY STAY ON UNTIL 10PM,
HAD CONTINUED HIS SOLO-PRACTICE AFTER CLUB ACTIVITIES ENDED EVERY DAY..

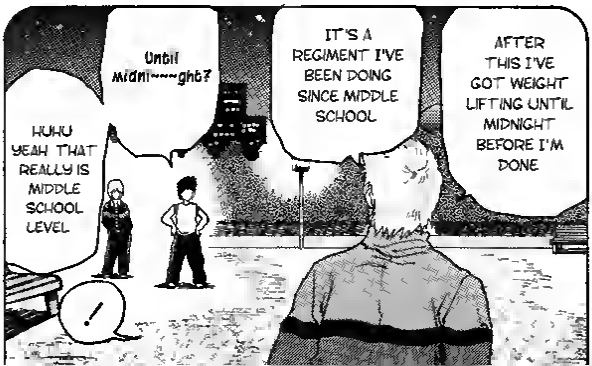
HM?
AND JUST A FEW DAYS EARLIER...


USING THE LAMP POSTS IN PLACE OF GOALS...
AFTER THAT HE WOULD PRACTICE DEEP INTO THE NIGHT AT A NEARBY PARK----

!

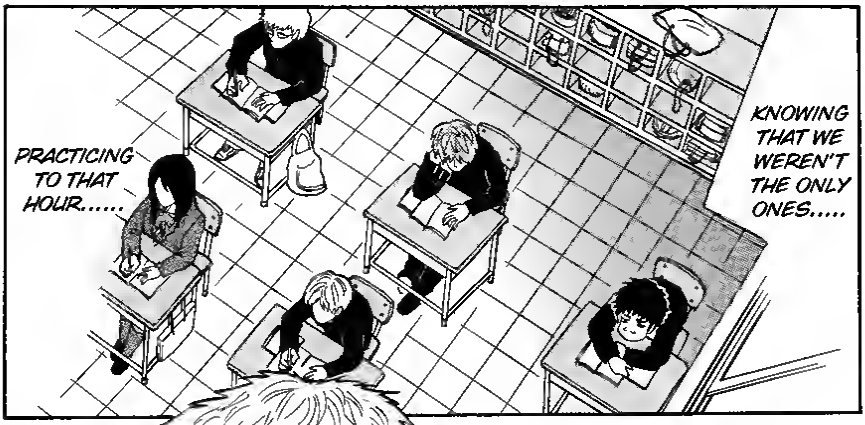
OOOOOH, WELL IF IT AIN'T SAORI?!
OH.

I'VE BEEN DOIN' A REGULAR NIGHTLY RUN SINCE BEFORE THAT...
M MORON...


HUHU YEAH THAT REALLY IS MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL
Until midni~~~ght?
IT'S A REGIMENT I'VE BEEN DOING SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL
AFTER THIS I'VE GOT WEIGHT LIFTING UNTIL MIDNIGHT BEFORE I'M DONE
!

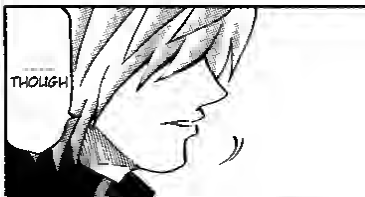
OUT FOR A RUN AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
HAHAH, YOU LOOKED PREEETTY UPSET
Nahaha
AFTER THAT SCRIMMAGE MATCH THE OTHER DAY, TOO, DIDN' YA?!

HEY, YOU GUYS ARE BEGINNERS SO OF COURSE YA GOTTA DO AT LEAST THAT MUCH
BUT I.....
.....
ARE YOU PROUD OF THAT?
WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE UNTIL 1 AM, RIGHT?
AFTER THIS...
AND TODAY JUST HAPPENS T'A BE ONE 'A THOSE 2 AM DAYS.
SOMETIMES KEEP RUNNING UNTIL 2 AM.
.....AND BECAUSE OF THAT POINTLESS PISSING CONTEST.....
WHAT'S WITH THIS "WE"? SINCE WHEN AM I PART OF THIS?
WE'RE GOING TO BE STARTING OUR TOP-SECRET SPECIAL TRAINING ..... SO..... WE'RE GOING TO 3... NO, 4 AM... UNTIL 4 AM, MAN..
HOHOH... WELL AS IT JUST SO HAPPENS, STARTING TODAY..
HE ENDED UP SLEEPING AT THE ONLY TIME THEY COULD, DURING CLASS.....
WE'RE GOING UNTIL 8 AM!!
I'M GOIN' TILL 7 AM...
HM... WELL IF WE'RE BEING HONEST HERE, WE'RE GONNA BE GOING UNTIL 6 AM!
WELL, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST WITH YA, I'M GOING UNTIL 5 AM...
I WILL UNTIL 9 AM!!

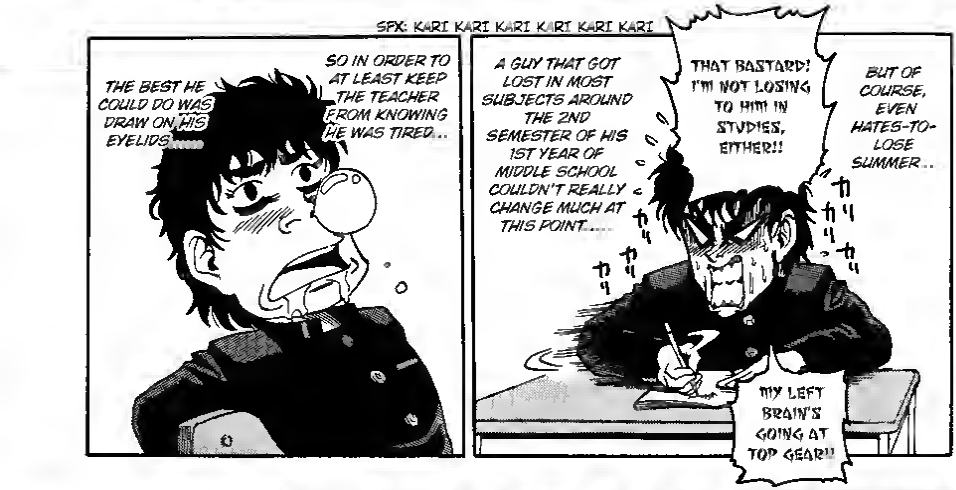


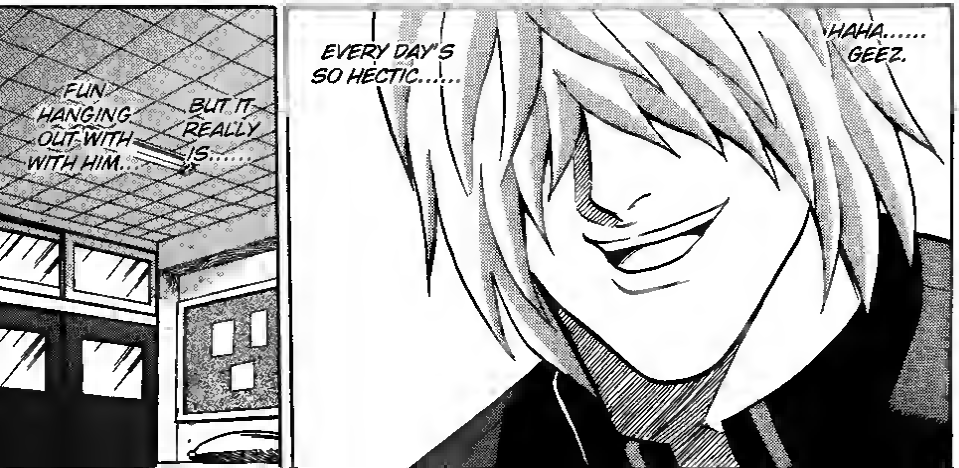
FOR SOME REASON, KNOWING WE HAD A TEAMMATE TRYING AS HARD AS WE WERE...

WAS TRUTHFULLY A BIG ENCOURAGEMENT.....

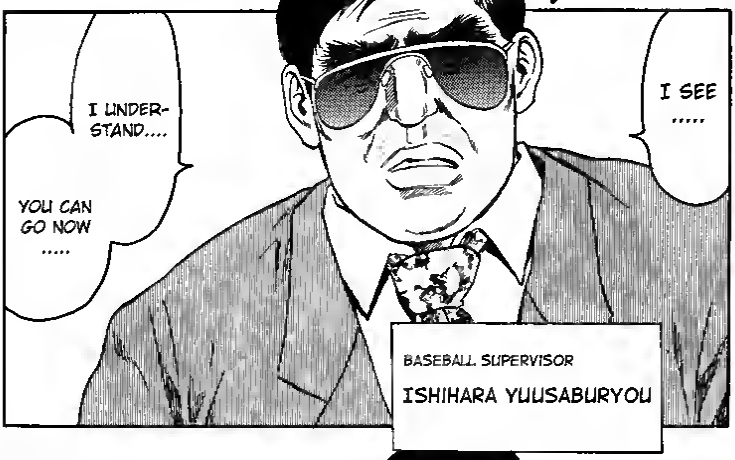


A...
I had no idea that Saori was so good at studying .....
This guy can seriously stay awake during class after all of that.....?
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD'VE GOTTEN ANY SLEEP.
AN HONOR STU-DENT, HUH?


SFX: KARI KARI KARI KARI KARI KARI
THE BEST HE COULD DO WAS DRAW ON HIS EYELIDS.....
SO IN ORDER TO AT LEAST KEEP THE TEACHER FROM KNOWING HE WAS TIRED...
A GUY THAT GOT LOST IN MOST SUBJECTS AROUND THE 2ND SEMESTER OF HIS 1ST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL COULDN'T REALLY CHANGE MUCH AT THIS POINT.....
THAT BASTARD! I'M NOT LOSING TO HIM IN STUDIES, EITHER!!
BUT OF COURSE, EVEN HATES-TO-LOSE SUMMER...
MY LEFT BRAIN'S GOING AT TOP GEAR!!

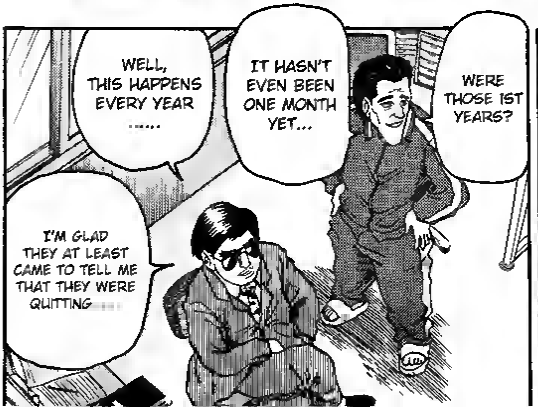

FUN HANGING OUT WITH WITH HIM.....
BUT IT REALLY IS.....
EVERY DAY'S SO HECTIC.....
HAHA..... GEEZ.

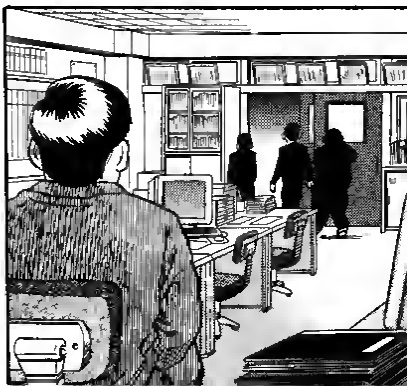
AFTER SCHOOL—
SFX: KIIN KOOHN KAAAN KOOHN

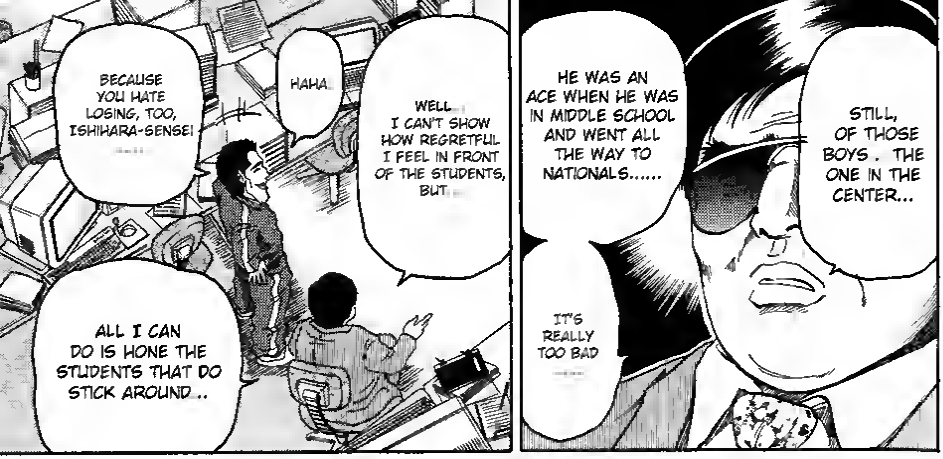

I UNDER-STAND....
YOU CAN GO NOW .....
I SEE .....
BASEBALL SUPERVISOR
ISHIHARA YUUSABURYOU

STAFF ROOM

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR US..
WE'RE SORRY .....


WELL, THIS HAPPENS EVERY YEAR .....
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN ONE MONTH YET...
WERE THOSE 1ST YEARS?
I'M GLAD THEY AT LEAST CAME TO TELL ME THAT THEY WERE QUITTING

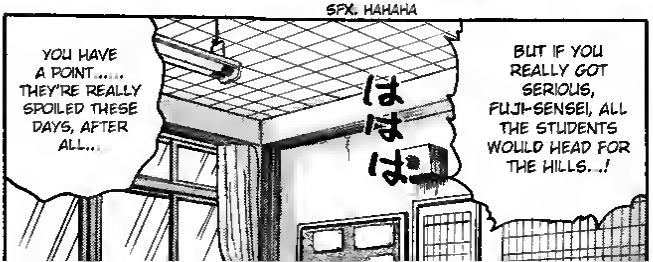



BECAUSE YOU HATE LOSING, TOO, ISHIHARA-SENSEI
HAHA
WELL... I CAN'T SHOW HOW REGRETFUL I FEEL IN FRONT OF THE STUDENTS, BUT...
ALL I CAN DO IS HONE THE STUDENTS THAT DO STICK AROUND...
HE WAS AN ACE WHEN HE WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WENT ALL THE WAY TO NATIONALS.....
IT'S REALLY TOO BAD
STILL, OF THOSE BOYS. THE ONE IN THE CENTER...

HOW ABOUT YOU, FUJI-SENSEI? HAVE ANY DETERMINED STUDENTS THIS YEAR?
!
BECAUSE IN THE END, IT'S NOT GENIUS THAT MATTERS MOST, IT'S DETERMINATION...

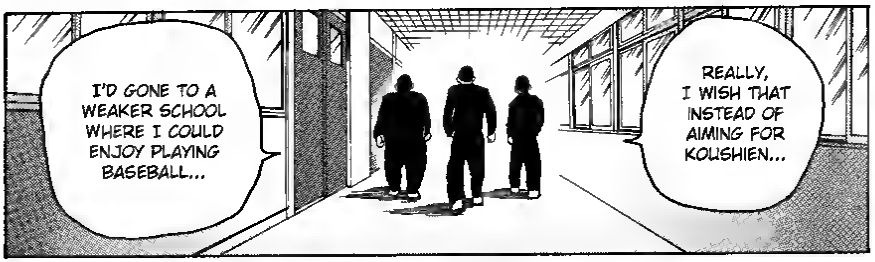
SO THE "Great Demon Coach" IS BACK IN ACTION?
HOHOH
BEFORE I KNEW IT I WANTED TO START GUIDING THEM LIKE IN MY OLD DAYS...
WE'VE GOT SOME MAGNIFICENT NEW TALENT ...

.....
YES .....


SFX: HAHAHA
はは
YOU HAVE A POINT..... THEY'RE REALLY SPOILED THESE DAYS, AFTER ALL...
BUT IF YOU REALLY GOT SERIOUS, FUJI-SENSEI, ALL THE STUDENTS WOULD HEAD FOR THE HILLS...!

AH, TAKUYA!
!
YOU HEADING TO PRACTICE?
JYUNICHI ...
HUH?
I WAS JUST GIVING THE SUPERVISOR MY RESIGNATION...
SFX. SU
SORRY, JYUNICHI ...
I QUIT THE BASEBALL TEAM...
ME, TOO! I WAS JUST THINKING OF GOING BACK TO THE BASEBALL TEAM.
HUH...?
WAIT...
SORRY... I KNOW I INVITED YOU TO JOIN AND ALL...
I JUST CAN'T KEEP UP...
IT'S JUST, ... THE PRACTICES HAVE BEEN REALLY ROUGH...
AND I KINDA DON'T GET ALONG WITH MY SENPAIS....
WH... WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?!

T/N KOUSHIEN IS THE STADIUM WHERE THE HIGH-SCHOOL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE HELD



What do you say we join the baseball team together?
THEN HOW 'BOUT THIS
Y... YEAH... I WAS THINKING ABOUT IT... I'M NOT ALL THAT ATHLETIC SO I WANTED TO TONE MY BODY A BIT...

HEY, MAN!
YOU SAID YOU WERE LOOKING TO JOIN A SPORTS TEAM IN HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?

I MEAN YOU MADE IT TO NATIONALS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, SO MAYBE SOMETHING LIKE THAT ISN'T JUST A DREAM!
HEEEEH, KOUSHIEN, HUH? THAT SOUNDS AWESOME

YEAH! WE'LL ALL WORK HARD TOGETHER AND GO FOR KOUSHIEN!!
Baseball team?!

SO WHY'D HE GIVE UP SO EASILY.....?
HE HAS TALENT.....

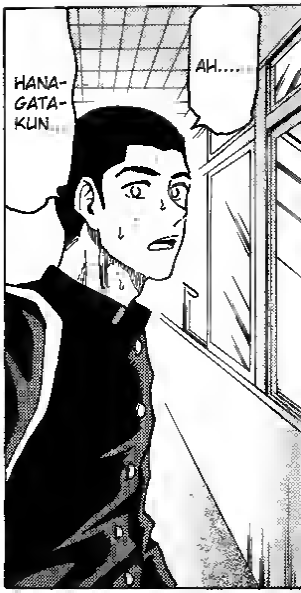
WHY...
MAN, I'M REALLY GETTING EXCITED!
WE CAN DEFINITELY MAKE IT TO KOUSHIEN!!
YEAH! YAMAGAKU'S GOT A GREAT BASEBALL TEAM!
LET'S INVITE SOME OTHER GUYS!
HAHA!
WE MIGHT EVEN GET TO BE ON TV IF WE MAKE IT TO KOUSHIEN!

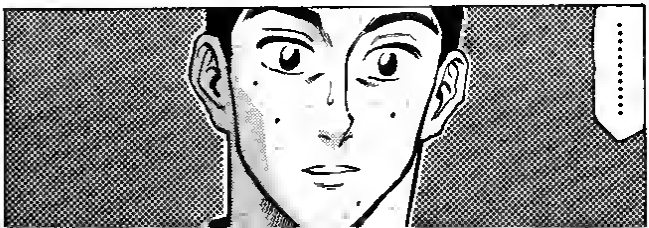
I THOUGH WE'D GO FOR IT.....
TOGETHER.....
I MEAN..... I WAS REALLY HAPPY WHEN TAKUYA INVITED ME.....

SFX: BIKUH (SURPRISE)
びく
HEE-EEEY!
TOBAA-AAAAH!!

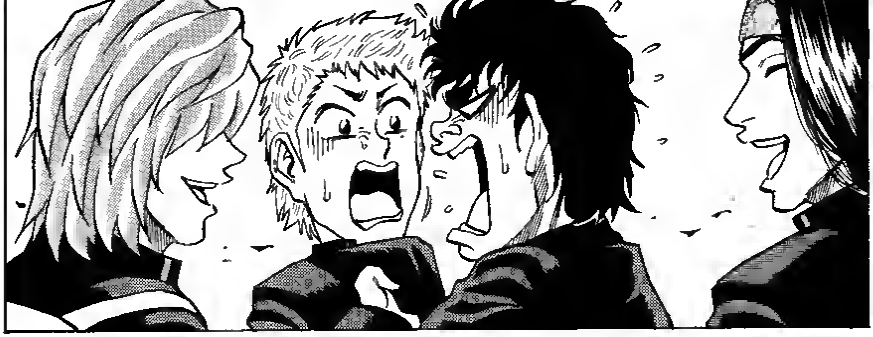
C'MON, WE'RE ALL HEADED FOR ANOTHER INTENSE PRACTICE TODAY, COME WITH US!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' OVER THERE?

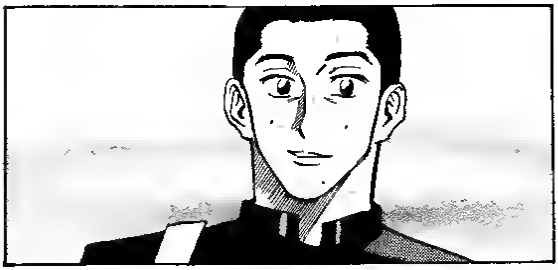
NOBODY WANTS TO HEAR THAT FROM A BEGINNER LIKE YOU.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH US!
BY THE WAY, YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY STAMINA, SO YOU'RE GONNA AT LEAST HAVE TO GO FOR A RUN BEFOREHAND, TOBA!
HURRY UP, WE'RE GONNA GO DO SOME PASSING PRACTICE, TOBA!

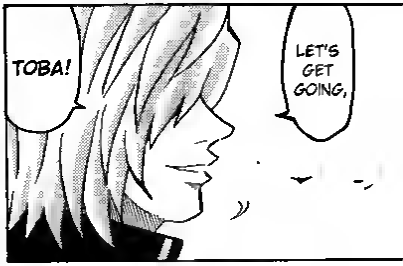

HANA-GATA-KUN...
AH.....

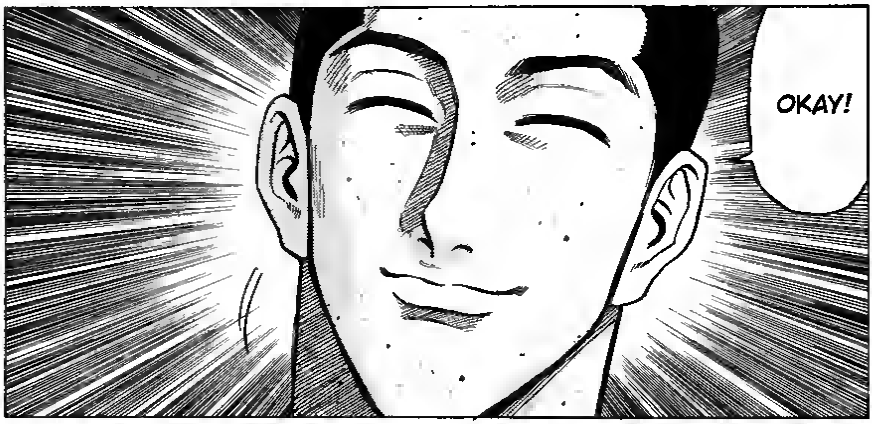

.....

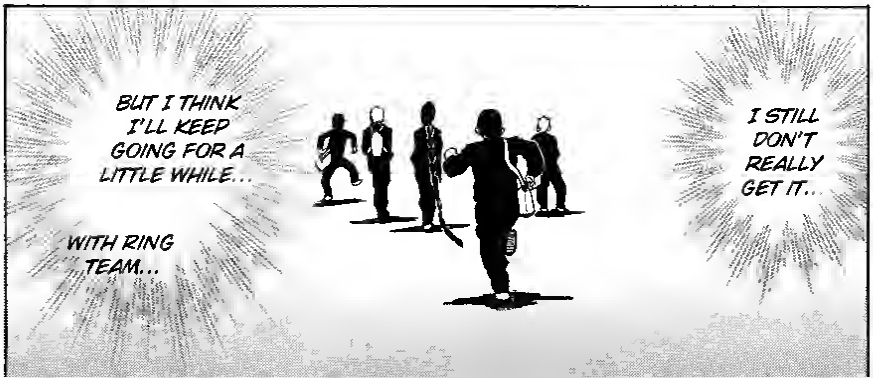
HM... HUH? DO YOU HAVE SOME NEW MOLES, TOBA?
LIKE TWO MORE.
NO! DON'T!!
Two more.
SFX NUH
ANYHOW, WE'VE GOT PRACTIIIICE!!
WHAT GIVES BIRTH TO ALL PLAYS IS "PRACTICE", AFTER ALL!
THAT'S WHAT THE SUPERVISOR TOLDJA, AIN'T IT?
DON'T RIP IT OFF
OKAY?!!
HAHA. IF THAT'S WHAT GIVES BIRTH TO THEM, THEN I WONDER WHAT RAISES THEM?
WELL THEY SAY WHAT RAISES ALL PLAYS IS "EXPERIENCE"!
REAL GAME EXPERIENCE!
THEN WHO'S THE "DAD" IN THIS?
I DUNNO. QUIT THA MORONIC QUESTIONS

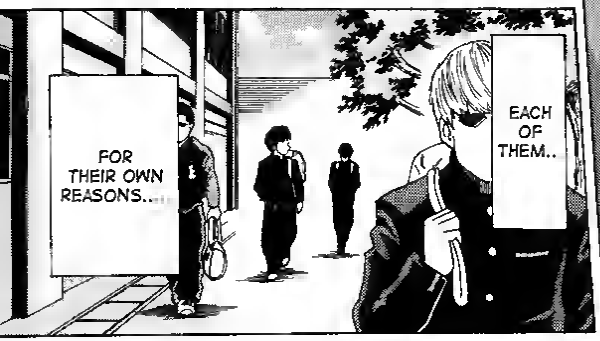


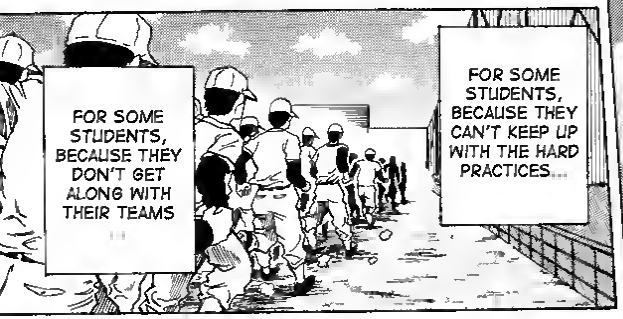



TOBA!
LET'S GET GOING,


OKAY!


BUT I THINK I'LL KEEP GOING FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
WITH RING TEAM...
I STILL DON'T REALLY GET IT..


FOR THEIR OWN REASONS...
EACH OF THEM..

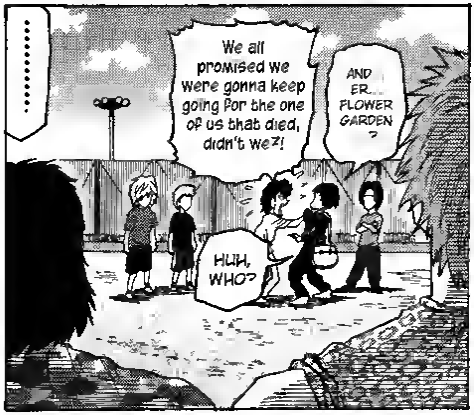

FOR SOME STUDENTS, BECAUSE THEY DON'T GET ALONG WITH THEIR TEAMS
FOR SOME STUDENTS, BECAUSE THEY CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE HARD PRACTICES...

AND FOR SOME IT'S *JUST BECAUSE* ....
FOR SOME, BECAUSE THEY HAVE OTHER THINGS THEY WANT TO DO

IS NO EXCEPTION
AND THE RING TEAM

COME MAY——
BIT BY BIT, ON EACH TEAM.....
FIRST YEARS QUIT...

WHAT THE HELL DO YA MEAN YER QUITTING, TOO?!!
TANAKAA!!!
HEY, TANAKAAA !!

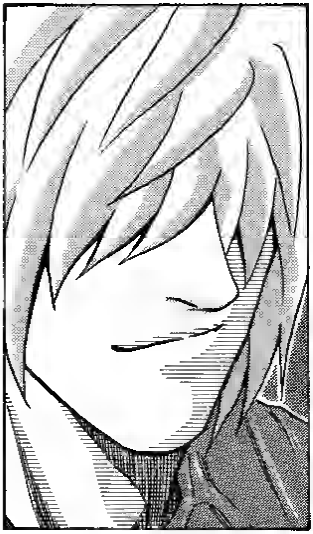

.....
We all promised we were gonna keep going for the one of us that died, didn't we?!
AND ER... FLOWER GARDEN ?
HUH, WHO?

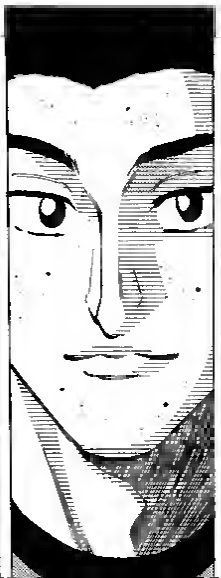
HOW WE VOWED UNDER THAT STARRY SKY THAT WE WERE BOTH GOING TO AIM FOR THE FLOWER GARDEN?!!
DID YOU FORGET THE VOW WE MADE THAT DAY, DAMMIT?!!
.....UM ..... I'M NAKAMURA.
HUH? WHAT? WHEN?

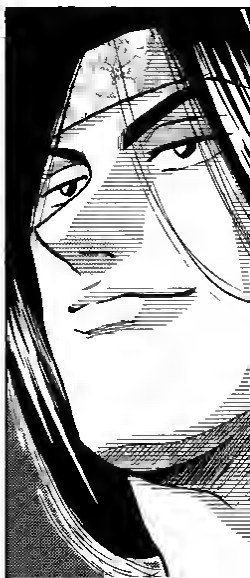
OUR YEAR HAD 30 TO START OUT WITH AND NOW WE'RE DOWN TO 6 AFTER ALL...
WE'RE BETTER OFF, AIN'T WE?
WE HAD ALL THOSE FIRST YEARS AND NO WE'RE SUDDENLY DOWN TO HALF...?
WELL, I GUESS IT DOES HAPPEN EVERY YEAR ..
Hey, Summer, that's enough! You can't force him to stay!

Okay, 1st years gather together!
HM...
'RE YOU THEIR DAD?
I DON' REMEMBER RAISING SUCH SOFTIES, I TELLS YA!!
GODDAMMIT, THESE GUTLESS BASTARDS!!
ISU!
!
SFX. ZAH
HM.....
THAT'S A BIT CLOSE .....

AND WE HAVE 7 FIRST YEARS LEFT, EH...?
ONE MONTH HAS GONE BY...

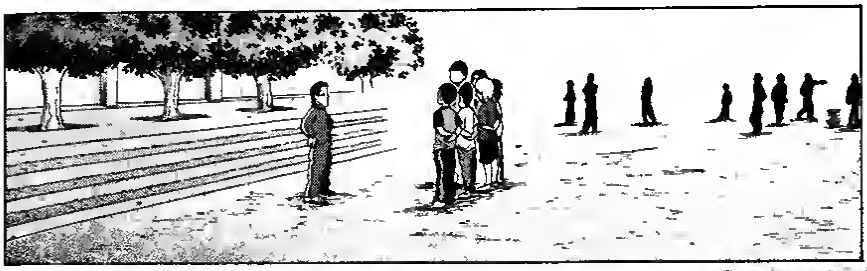






SENSEI ISN'T GOING TO TELL YOU ALL NOT TO GIVE UP NO MATTER WHAT...
LIFE IS A SERIES OF "CHOICES"...
BE A BOON TO YOU...
BUT CONTINUING WILL DEFINITELY SOMEDAY
IT'S ALSO CONNECTED TO AN INVISIBLE TRUST...
AND MOST OF ALL, ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING...
TURNS INTO UNSHAKABLE CONFIDENCE.

giving it your all with us for three years?!
So how about...



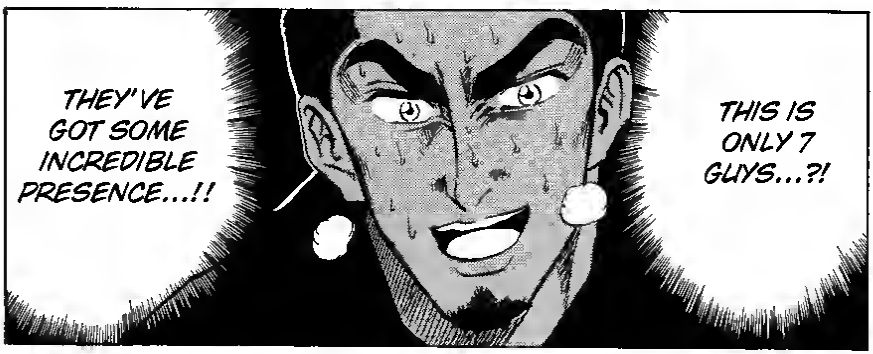
.....
OKAAY! THEN FIRST..... UM.... WHAT..... WHAT ARE WE DOING, CAPTAIN?!
RUN-NING.
RUNNIIIIING!!
MAN, YOU'RE LOUD.

SFX: GABIIIN
ガビーン
HUUU UH?!
Got no clue
I DON' GET IT! WHA'S HE TALKIN' ABOUT?!!

SFX: ORAA
YEAA-AAH!!
AND THEN WE'LL GO STRAIGHT TO CONQUERING NATIONAAAALS!!
オラァ
ANYHOW, LET'S GET PRACITICIIING!! LET'S GET BETTER REALLY FAST AND GET REVENGE ON THOSE THIRD YEAAARS!!
HIN.

EH, SENSEI?
THEY'VE REALLY GOT SPIRIT. LOOKING GOOD, AREN'T THEY? THIS YEAR'S FIRST YEARS...
SUMMER REALLY HAS A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT
HUHU
HUH?
IZUMI...
LIKE FATHER LIKE SON, EH...?
WE HAVE SOME INCREDIBLE PLAYERS ON OUR HANDS .....
IT MAY JUST BE THAT RIGHT NOW...
ON THIS DAY, SUMMER AND THE OTHER FIRST YEARS...
WERE REDUCED TO JUST 7 PEOPLE...

HE COULD FEEL THE PRESENCE OF HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE RUNNING BEHIND HIM...
BUT WHEN OOTAKE WAS LEADING THE RUN THAT DAY...
FIGHT!
YAMA-GAKUU
OU!
OU!
FIGHT!
SFX: DODODODODODODODODODODO

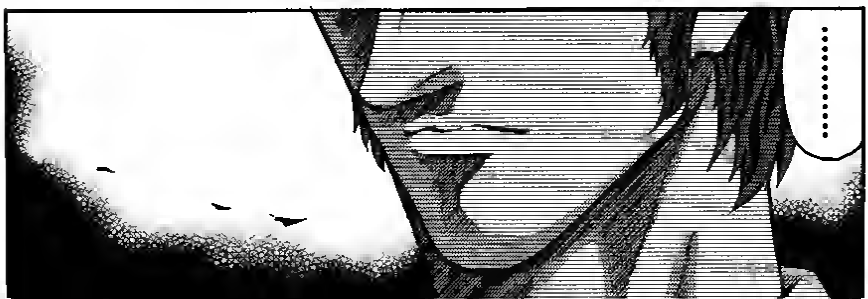

THEY'VE GOT SOME INCREDIBLE PRESENCE...!!
THIS IS ONLY 7 GUYS...?!

BEFORE THE INTER-HIGH PRELIMINARIES, A CHEERING SQUAD STARTED TO RAISE THEIR VOICES..
OH, IT'S STARTING.
OKAY!
MAKE THOSE VOICES ECHO ALL THE WAY TO BRAZIL!!
NOT GOOD ENOUGH!!
THE FAMOUS SPORTS SCHOOL, YAMAKAWA GAKUEN (ACADEMY)

Ring 13 : The Ace Appears!

SFX. ZAH

MORE! MAKE IT MORE LIKE YOU'RE PROCLAIMING YOUR LOVE FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH——!!
YA~~~MA~~~ GA~~~~KU!!
HOORA~~~Y! HOORA~~~Y!
THAT CRAP AIN'T GONNA MAKE THE HEARTS OF THE ATHLETES TREMBLE, GODDAMMIT!!
私立山川学園高等学校


……

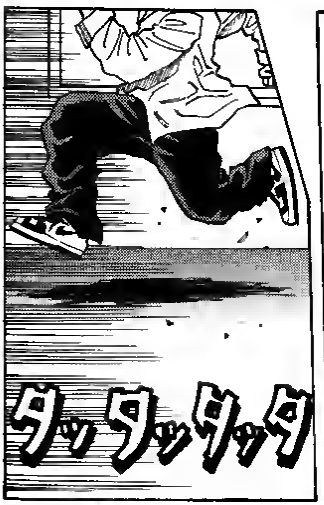
MU
WHAT THE HELL CLUB DO YOU THINK YOU'RE CHEERING FOR OVER THERE, YA MOROOOONS?!!
HORA AAAAA AH!!!!
H... HEY, QUIT IT, FIRST YEARS!
YOU LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT, PUNK?!
WHO INVITED YOU, BASTARD?!!
WHO THE HELL'RE YOU?!
!!
TH... .....
THAT VOICE .....
YOU GUYS FIRST YEARS?
AH?
WHAT YEAR ARE YOU?!
YOU LISTENIN' TO US, DUDE?!!
YOU WANNA DIE?!

BESHIH
SFX: DOH
!?
SFX. ZUZAAA
KOKI
KOKI

YA REALLY NEED TO DISCIPLINE YOUR FIRST YEARS...
GEORGE-SAN...
.....
A.....
AKA...!!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO PUT ALL YOU'VE GOT...
INTO CHEERING FOR THE RING TEAM THIS YEAR.....!
RING TEAM 2ND YEAR
AKA TAICHIROU

SFX: WAAAA

SFX: GATA



SX: TATTATTATTA

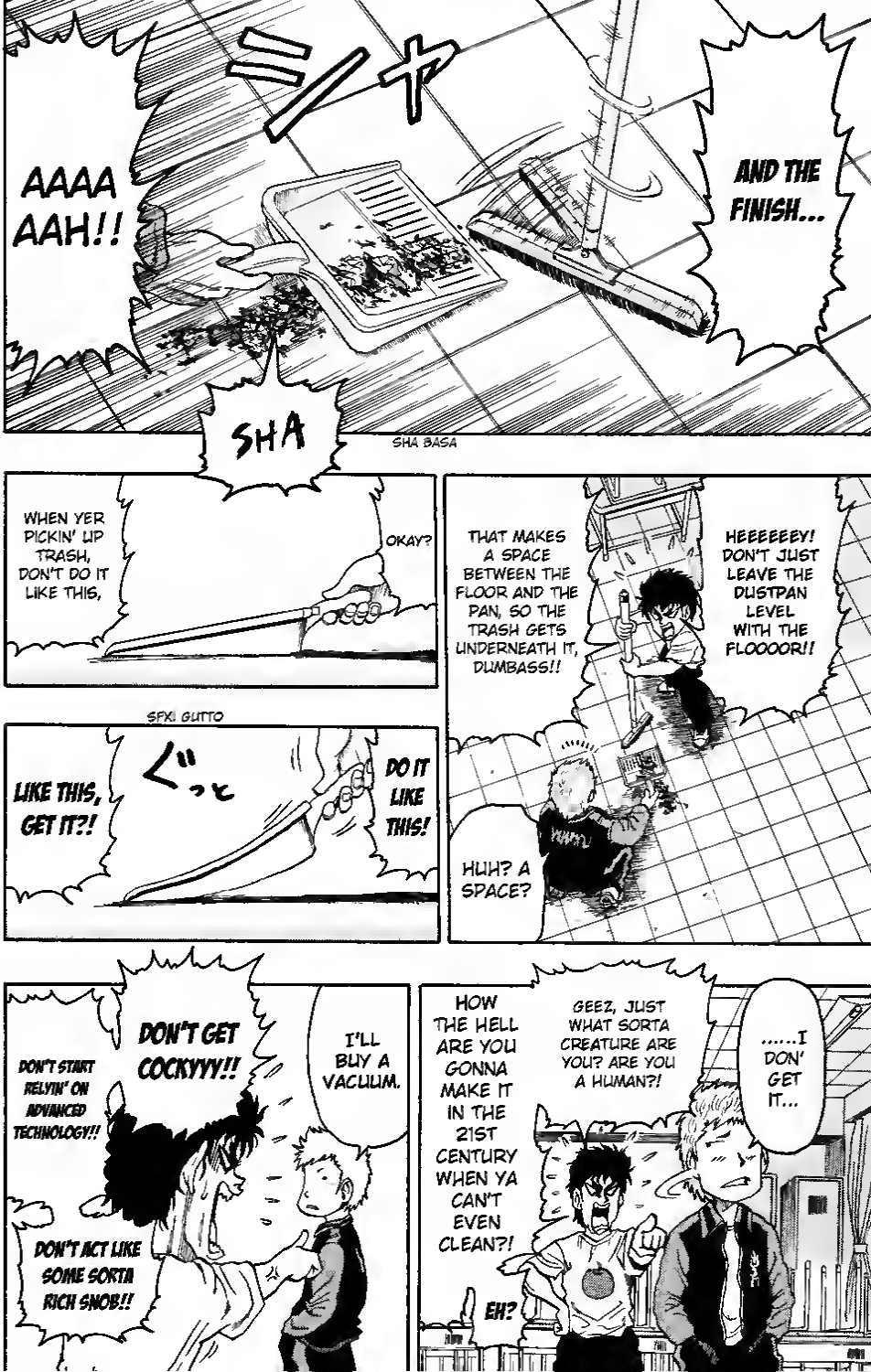
SFX: DOOOON

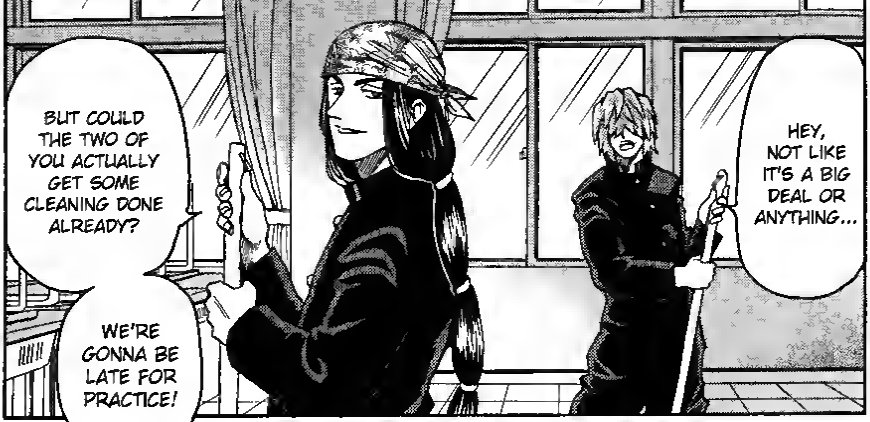
I MISSED YO~~~~U! ♡
ASSUKKA-CHA~~~N!
タッタッタッタッタッタッ
SFX: TATTATTATTATTATTA
WERE YA LONELY HERE WITHOUT LITTLE 'OL ME~~~~~?
ハーーーイ!
HIIIIII, ASUKA!
2-4
SFX: HIIII!
A MAN UTTERLY INFATUATED WITH ASUKA .
AKA TAICH-IROU—
NO, I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO! ♡
Where'd Asuka-chan go?!
LEMME GO~~~~~ GODD-AMMIIIIT!
BUT LIKED BY NOBUMI .....
WUAA-AAAAH, I DIDN' MEAN YOOOOU!!
Ooh?!
AAAHN ♡
SO~~~~~ LONELY!!!
NO-BUMI!!

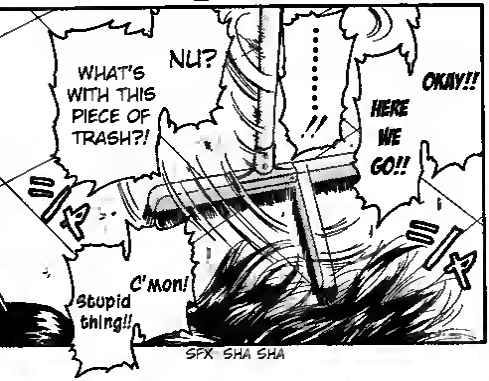
Ring13 : The Ace Appears!

SAI~~~
~~~D,
1-3
LI~~~KE
I~~~
YOU PIECE OF CRAP!!
PUT THE TRASH IN THE FREAKIN' DUSTPAN!
THE TRASH IS FALLIN' OUTTA THE SIDES 'A THE DUSTPAN...!!
YA CAN'T GO BLAMIN' ME!
OKAY? LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
CHA
OKAY, I'LL FRIGGIN' DO IT!
OO OO OH
AAA-AAH?!
HELL YEAH I CAN BLAME YOU, MORON! NOW DO IT AGAIN!!
~~~

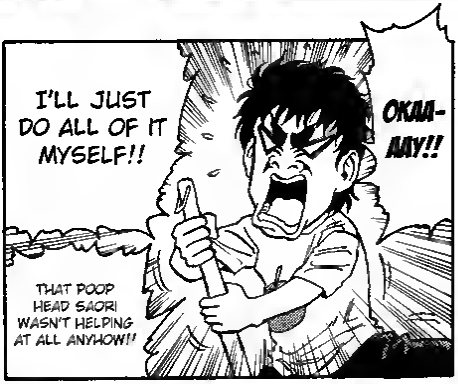
'N then like this!!
ZA
LOOK! SEE?!!
IT FALLS OUT THA SIDES!!
IDIOT!!
ZA BA
SFX: SHA
GEEZ, YOU'VE GOT ZERO SENSE FOR BROOMING!!
LET ME DO IT!
Ooh?
WHA THE HELL? SHEESH...
I'LL SHOW YOU THE SECRET 'A BROOMING!
YA GOTTA DO LIKE THIS...
ARRANGE IT LONG-WAYS SO YOU DON'T FUCK UP THE FINISH!!
MORON!!
HUH? ARRANGE?
THEN YA USE THE EDGE OF THE BROOM THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANY SPACES...
GET IT? YOU WATCHIN' ME?
FIRST YOU GOTTA GET THE TRASH IN A VERTICAL LINE LIKE THIS, OKAY?
YOU LISTENIN'?
SHU
SHA


ミシャ
AAAA AAH!!
AND THE FINISH...
SHA
SHA BASA
WHEN YER PICKIN' UP TRASH, DON'T DO IT LIKE THIS,
OKAY?
SFX: GUTTO
LIKE THIS, GET IT?!
ぐっと
DO IT LIKE THIS!
THAT MAKES A SPACE BETWEEN THE FLOOR AND THE PAN, SO THE TRASH GETS UNDERNEATH IT, DUMBASS!!
HEEEEEEY! DON'T JUST LEAVE THE DUSTPAN LEVEL WITH THE FLOOOOR!!
HUH? A SPACE?
DON'T START RELYIN' ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY!!
DON'T GET COCKYYY!!
I'LL BUY A VACUUM.
DON'T ACT LIKE SOME SORTA RICH SNOB!!
HOW THE HELL ARE YOU GONNA MAKE IT IN THE 21ST CENTURY WHEN YA CAN'T EVEN CLEAN?!
GEEZ, JUST WHAT SORTA CREATURE ARE YOU? ARE YOU A HUMAN?!
.....I DON' GET IT...
EH?


BUT COULD THE TWO OF YOU ACTUALLY GET SOME CLEANING DONE ALREADY?
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR PRACTICE!
HEY, NOT LIKE IT'S A BIG DEAL OR ANYTHING...

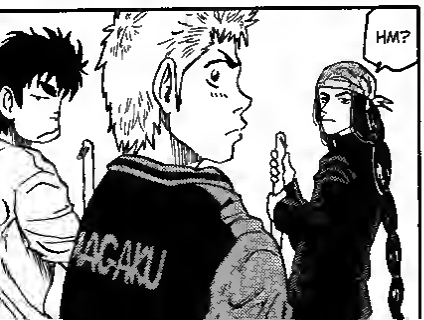

NU?
WHAT'S WITH THIS PIECE OF TRASH?!
OKAY!!
HERE WE GO!!
C'mon!
Stupid thing!!

SFX SHA SHA


I'LL JUST DO ALL OF IT MYSELF!!
OKAA-AAY!!
THAT POOP HEAD SAORI WASN'T HELPING AT ALL ANYHOW!!

HEY...
!

AH, SORRY.
THAT'S NOT TRASH!!
OWUAAAAH! THAT'S MY HAIR, DAMMIT!!
あだだだ


HM?
GAKU

IS SAORI HERE?
YOU 1ST YEAR KIDS SURE SEEM TO BE DOING WELL.....

!

THE HELL'RE YOU...?
UH WHO

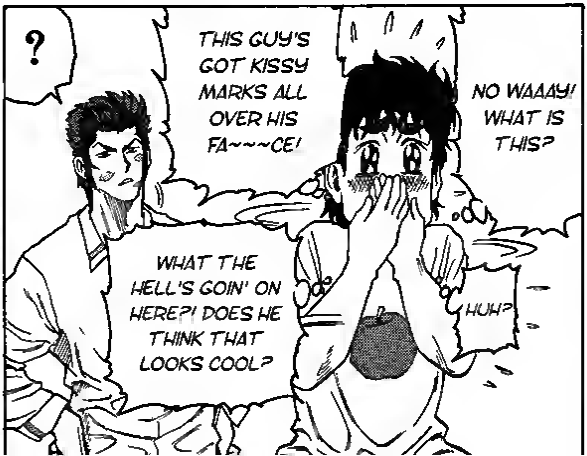
HM?
JUST WHO ARE YOU EXACTLY?
Eh?
YOU SURE ARE ACTING HIGH AND MIGHTY WITHOUT EVEN GIVING YOUR NAME...

UWA, WHAT THE HELL...
HM?

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY.....
.....

SFX. PIKUH

!
ARE YOU SAORI?


?
THIS GUY'S GOT KISSY MARKS ALL OVER HIS FA~~~CE!
NO WAAAY! WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON HERE?! DOES HE THINK THAT LOOKS COOL?
HUH?

S.....
SIDE-BURNS-KUN~~~?
Y...
YOU IDIOT! DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH THAT POOP HEAD THAT CAN'T CLEAN FOR SHIT!
THERE'S A MAX LIMIT TO HOW BAD YOU CAN MISTAKE A PERSON FOR SOMEBODY ELSE, SIDEBURNS-KUN!!
HUH? ME?!
-----Hey, what're you sayin' about Toki?!
I'D RATHER NOT BE CALLED THAT BY A GUY WHOSE HEAD LOOKS LIKE A FAILED ATTEMPT AT A BIRD'S NEST.....
NOOO, YOU, THE ONE WITH THE CURLY-ASS PERM!!
MY NAME...?
HMM?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN SOMEBODY AS CHEEKY AS YOU.....
YOU BASTARD .....
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME, MAN?
.....
HAS THIS GUY BEEN PLAYIN' HOOKY THIS WHOLE TIME?
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO SUMMER IS...?

HANAGATA NATSU! YOU GOT A PROBLEM?
RING TEAM 1ST YEAR
DO I HAVE A PROBLEM?
.....
RING TEAM FIRST YEAR, HUH.....?
Sh-Shut up! WHY'D YOU GOTTA SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!!
With your face covered with lipstick kissy marks!
MY FACE?
HUH?
EVEN IF KEN-SAN'S OKAY WITH IT, I SURE AS HELL AIN'T!!
HOW THE HELL DID THEY LET A GUY LIKE YOU ON THE RING TEAM?!
I'VE GOT A WHOLE HEAP 'A PROBLEE-EEMS!!!
NU...?

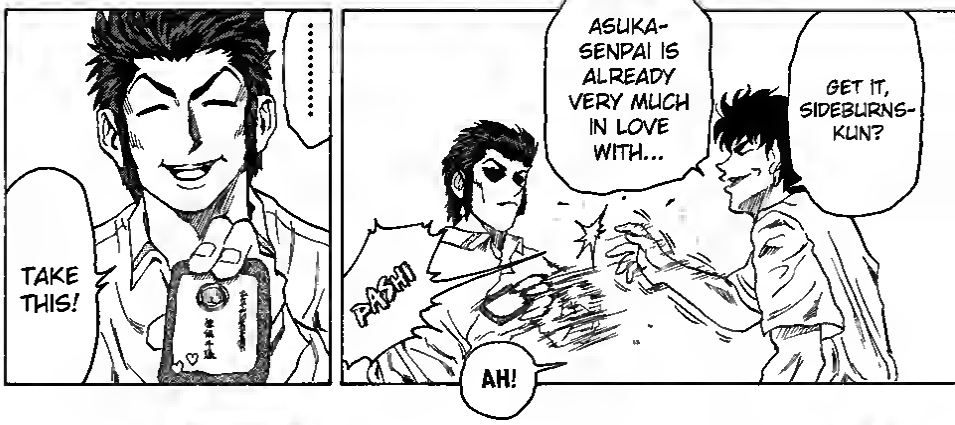
THAT JACKASS GOT LIPSTICK ALL OVER ME!!
MAAAAN, THAT NOBUMI!!
GUAAA SHIII-IIT!
NO WAAAAAY!!
PU
TO BE HONEST WITH YA, YOU'VE GOT KISS MARKS ALL OVER YOUR FACE...
SFX: GOSHI GOSHI GOSHI GOSHI GOSHI
(THE 4TH GOSHI WAS WRITTEN IN THE KANJI FOR 5 AND 4.)
HM?
UM...
HMAGAKU
GROSS, GROSS!!
PU KUKU
OOOOOOH! SO YOU'RE ASUKA-CHAN'S LITTLE BROTHER, EH?!!
OH..
UH, I AM.....
HE AIN'T SAORI,
WHADDA YA WANT?

HEY, HEY, HOOOOOOLD UP THERE!!! HEEEY!
Nice to meetcha.
SOMEDAY I'M GONNA BE YOUR "BROTHER" IN LAW, DUDE.
HEY, YOU!!
HEY, SIDEBURNS!!!
BY THE WAY, IS ASUKA-CHAN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL TODAY?
カッ
SFX: GAH
A-
ASUKA-CHAN?!
AH?
Don't 'Ah?' me.

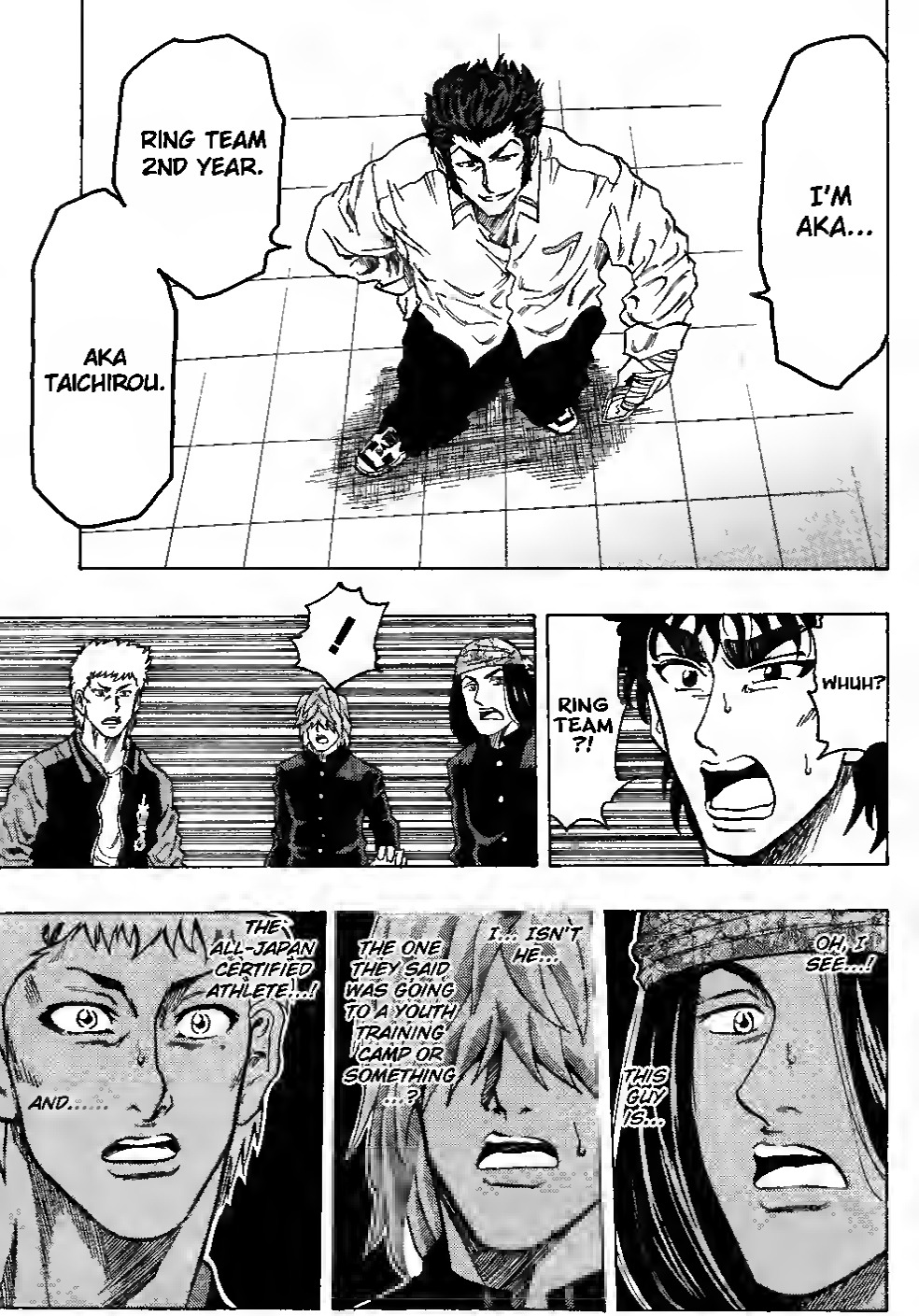
IS THIS "ASUKA-CHAN" .....
THE ASUKA-SENPAI THAT'S HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR ME?
WHO'D YOU JUST SAY ASUKA-CHAN'S HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR?
ME.
SFX AAH? OH?
LIKE HELL SHE IS! ARE YOU HIGH, ASSHOLE ?!!
WHAT ABOUT YOU WITH THIS CRAZY SHIT ABOUT BEING SAORI'S BROTHER-IN-LAW?!!
SHUT UP!
I'M GONNA MARRY ASUKA-CHAN SOMEDAY SO I WAS JUST SAYING HI TO HER LITTLE BROTHER!!
AAA AAA AAH?
QUIT SPOUTIN' BULLSHIT, DAMMIT, SIDEBURNS!!

I'll have you know that Asuka-senpai likes me a mammoth lot!!
LIKE HELL SHE DOES, MORON!!
LET'S SEE SOME PROOF IF YOU'VE GOT ANY!!
TH... THIS FIGHT IS HARD TO WATCH...
P..... Proof?!
SFX. BAH
NU?!
FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS!!
どーーーん
SFX. DOOON
TH... THAT'S ASUKA-CHAN'S...
STUDENT NOTEBOOK ?!
Well if you must know, it was a present from Asuka-senpai!
YOU LIA~~~R! YOU JUST FOUND IT ON THE FRIGGIN' GROUND!
Kuku ku...
WHY THE HELL DO YOU HAVE THAT...?
AH! OH GODDAMMIT SUMMER, YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN THAT BACK?!!

HUHU... BY THE WAY, IT'S BECAUSE ASUKA-SENPAI IS SO HEAD-OVER-HEELS IN LOVE WITH MY "RING" TALENT ...
SO MUCH THAT I JOINED THE RING TEAM ON ASUKA-SENPAI'S RED-HOT INVITATION.....
!
HOOH ...
.....

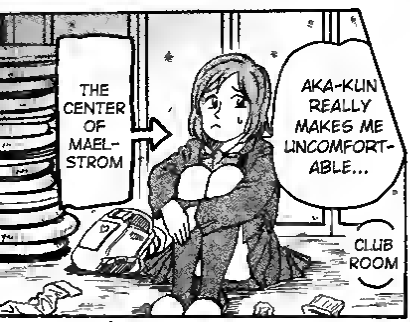

GET IT, SIDEBURNS-KUN?
ASUKA-SENPAI IS ALREADY VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH...
PASH!
AH!
TAKE THIS!
.....

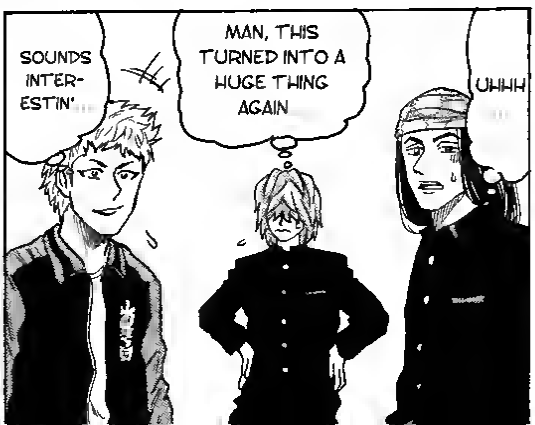
Do you have a fever or somethiiiiin'?
YOU SAID YOU'RE NAME'S HANAGATA... NATSU, RIGHT...?
IT'S SUM-MER.
...SUM-MER?
OH, I GET IT. NATSU, SUMMER, YEAH...
HAHA.


I'M AKA...
RING TEAM 2ND YEAR.
AKA TAICHIROU.
!
WHUH?
RING TEAM ?!
THE ALL-JAPAN CERTIFIED ATHLETE...!
AND.....
I... ISN'T HE...
THE ONE THEY SAID WAS GOING TO A YOUTH TRAINING CAMP OR SOMETHING ...?
OH, I SEE...!
THIS GUY IS...

YOU WERE SAYIN' SOMETHIN' ABOUT YOUR RING TALENT, RIGHT, SUMMEEEER?
THE YAMAGAKU RING TEAM'S "ACE" ...!!
LET'S TAKE THIS OUTSIDE.
!

!!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
PLAY ME IN RING...!
WINNER GETS ASUKA-CHAN...!!


THE CENTER OF MAEL-STROM
AKA-KUN REALLY MAKES ME UNCOMFORT-ABLE...
CLUB ROOM


SOUNDS INT'ER-ESTIN'...
MAN, THIS TURNED INTO A HUGE THING AGAIN...
UHHH...

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (3))

Okay, I totally forgot what part I wrote up to last time (heheh). Anyhow, here's the continuation of "Until I made Ring." Okay, uh... Yeah ok. So I'd decided I was gonna make a totally new sport. Well, it might be too hard, but I had plenty of time (At that time, I had plenty of time anyhow...), so I thought I'd give it my all to think something up...

Seeing as it would be the theme, I wanted to draw something as interesting as I could, and I wanted to set it in a school, so I wanted it to be a sport that could actually be played in real life. I decided I didn't wanna do any sorta near-future sci-fi sorta thing, one that used impossible tools, or required moves that can't be done in the real world. And I also wanted the sport itself to be as simple and primitive as possible. When you're trying to create something that doesn't exist, it's pretty hard to avoid starting out with something really complicated... Even I would even get sick of thinking about them after a while...

So, I figured I should start thinking about it, but I had really no idea how to tackle it, so for a while (1 week) I spent each day totally spaced out. I thought back to my days as a newbie before I had even debuted (heheh). Ya see, back in those days it took me a month to think up a Name (story board) for a single one-shot... (Man, that's long!) Though coming up with a new story and characters was a real slog both then and now... Also, while it was easier for me to have a bird's eye view of a series now compared to then, I had times when I cooled down and hit the breaks on myself, or rather I had restraint. Basically because I drew my works back in those days thinking they were three times as interesting as the readers reading it, so in a way I was an idiot and was able to draw in really high spirits...

Continued on p154~

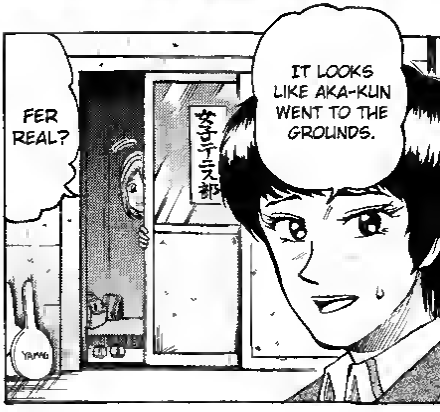
I JUST GOT BACK, GUYS!!!
I~~~ ~~~~ ~SSU!!
OH!
HM?
Ring14: Summer V.S. Aka
!
AH!

Ring14 : Summer V.S. Aka

T/N. AKA IS JAPANESE FOR RED. THEY'RE CALLING HIM THAT IN ENGLISH HERE

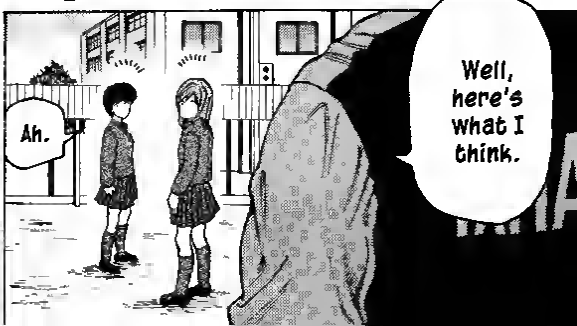
IT'S OKAY NOW, ASUKA!
.....

I KNOW IT'S A PAIN, ASUKA
FOR SHELTERING ME
THANKS KASUMI.
HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING YOU AROUND EVERYWHERE SINCE 1ST YEAR, RIGHT?


FER REAL?
IT LOOKS LIKE AKA-KUN WENT TO THE GROUNDS.
女子テニス部

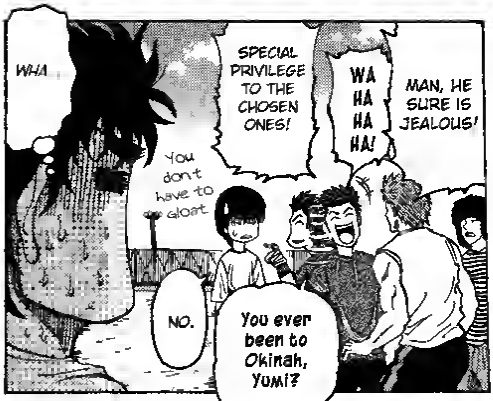
Nobumi!!
No...

UH _ C'MON, IT'S BECAUSE HE LIKES YOU...
MAYBE I DID SOMETHIN' BAD TO AKA-KUN~~~
YEAH~~~~ DARN, I DUNNO WHY~~~
ASUKA IS SUPER THICKHEADED ABOUT THIS SORT'A THING~~


Ah.
Well, here's what I think.

OR ACTUALLY, MAYBE YOU AUGHT TA QUIT SCHOOL ALL TOGETHER?
SO YOU CAN QUIT BEING MANAGER NOW, ASUKA!
YOU'RE BEING ALL MALICIOUS AGAIN!
ANYHOW,
HE REALLY DOES?!
HUH? NO WAY!
AKA-KUN, YOU SEE, WITHOUT A DOUBT ULTRA-HATES YOU, SO HE'S PURPOSEFULLY FOLLOWING YOU AROUND TO DRIVE YOU OUT OF THE CLUB...!
YES! ABSOLUTELY! WITHOUT A DOUBT!
AH..... ....YES....
OKAY? YOU GOT THAT?
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM GETTING IN BETWEEN AKA-KUN AND ME, ASUKA!
GET WITH THE PROGRAM, ASUKA!!
NO, YOU DIDN'T! SHE'S JUST MAKING YOU OUT TO BE HER RIVAL IN LOVE!!
SFX: ZUUN
I..... REALLY MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING BAD TO NOBUMI, DIDN' I.....?
AKA!!
AKAA!!

RED!!
ISSU, KEN-SAN.
Hey!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT, YOU BASTA~~~RD!
HOW DID TRAINING CAMP GO?!
AKA!
AKA!


WHA
SPECIAL PRIVILEGE TO THE CHOSEN ONES!
WA HA HA HA!
MAN, HE SURE IS JEALOUS!
You don't have to gloat
NO.
You ever been to Okinah, Yumi?

HUH? THE TRAINING CAMP WAS IN OKINAWA?
MA~~~ ~~N, OKINAWA'S AWESOO- OOME!!
You basta~ ~~rd!

HMMM, IT'S PROBABLY..
BECAUSE HE'S THE "ACE", I GUESS?
NO WAAAAY!!
Hey, Toki, how?!
How? How is this guy so damn popular?!

THAH MOHRON!!!
YOUR FACE IS WHAT'S AT A LOW PERCENTILE ...
ALSO HE'S NOT A PITCHER...
A...
AAACE?!
NOWAYYYZZ
A GUY WITH SIDEBURNS AROUND THE 15TH PERCENTILE IS AN ACE PITCHER?!!
THAT...
OH, ISSU, IZUMI-CHAN.
HEY, AKA!
WHAT'D YOU DO TO YOUR LEFT HAND?
SAY ...
AH, THIS ...?
WELL, AT THE TRAINING CAMP I GOT INTO A LITTLE
OH ...
YOU GOT INTO ANOTHER FIGHT, DIDN'T YOU?!
GAKU

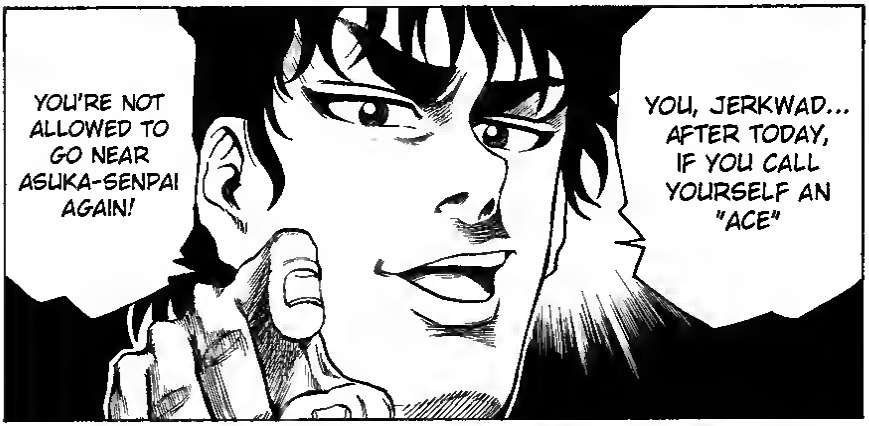
YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT FROM BEING THROWN OUT OF AS MANY GAMES AS YOU HAVE ..
BEING SO QUICK TO GET INTO FIGHTS IS A BAD HABIT OF YOURS ...
AKA ...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
I'M totally fine!
U~~~~~h, well... But the injury itself is just a little finger jam, basically...
なはは
なはは
SFX NAHAHAHAHA
hereby swear to never get into another fight!!
Okay, I understand! I, Aka Taichirou,

SFX SUBTSHTH
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!
NU
OKAA! COME AT ME, SUMMEEEER! I'LL BLOW YOU OUTTA THE WATER!!
ONLY TAKES EFFECT AFTER MY MATCH WITH SUMMER IS OVER!!!
すぴぴっ

.....
HOW-EVER-THAT .....

HM?
W... WAIT...!
YOU PIECE 'A SHIT SIDEBURNS, GETTIN' ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY OVER BEING CALLED "ACE"!!
Y... YOU GOT IT, ASSHOLE!!!
WHICH MEANS... IN OTHER WORDS. I'D...
IF I BEAT SIDEBURNS TODAY..... THEN I'LL BE HIGHER THAN THE "ACE".....
SFX. UOOOO
GENERAL! WHY'D YOU LET A GUY LIKE THAT ONTO THE TEAM?!
I'll Marry Ashuka-senpai!!
WHO'S GENERAL' ...?
うおおおお
LET'S MAKE HIM QUIT THE TEAM!
Heeey! Make sure you're ready to lose, okey? Former ace!!
AH?!
HEY!
THAT'S WHERE WE END UP!!
I'D BE THE FREAKIN' "ACE"!!
SO... SO THEN THAT MEANS... YEAH!!

WHO'RE YOU CALLING FORMER ACE ASSHOLE?
THAT'S QUITE SOME BIG TALK FOR A LITTLE FIRST YEAR...


YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GO NEAR ASUKA-SENPAI AGAIN!
YOU, JERKWAD... AFTER TODAY, IF YOU CALL YOURSELF AN "ACE"

GUNU~~~~ IF I COULD, I'D REALLY LIKE TO HIT HIM IN THE FACE WITH THIS FIST OF RAGE, BUT...
QUIT FIGHTING.
HEY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE FIGHTING ABOUT, BUT...
D... DON'T WORRY, IZUMI-CHAN ...

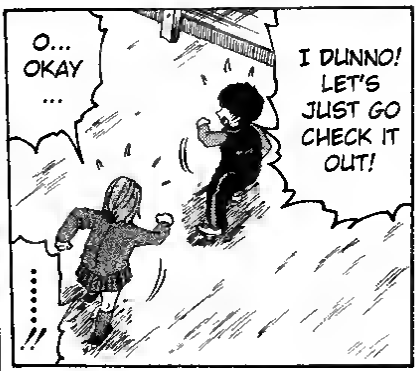
DID THEY REALLY ALREADY HAVE COME THIS CLOSE TO SOMETHING REALLY BAD.....?
AW GEEZ..... I THOUGHT WITH AKA BACK WE'D HAVE 2 PROBLEM CHILDREN ON OUR HANDS .....

HEY, HEY, ASUKA!
UH, I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS!!

I'M NOT GONNA FIGHT...
WE'RE GONNA SETTLE THIS WITH "RING"...!!

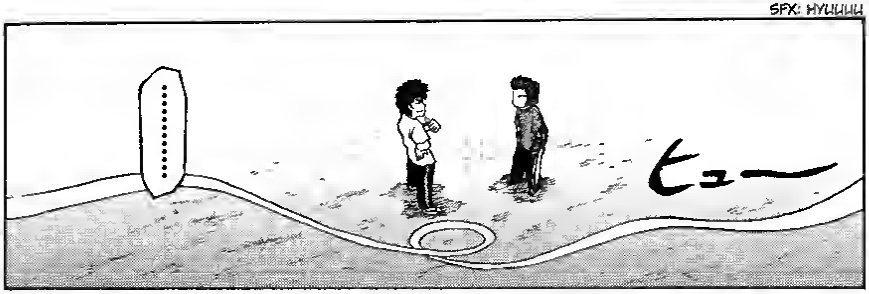
HUH? AKA-KUN AND SUMMER-KUN ARE PLAYING EACH OTHER IN RING?!
WHY'S HE DOING THAT AGAIN...?

SUMMER-KUN'S ONLY JUST STARTED PLAYING RING!...
PLAYING AKA-KUN IN RING.....?

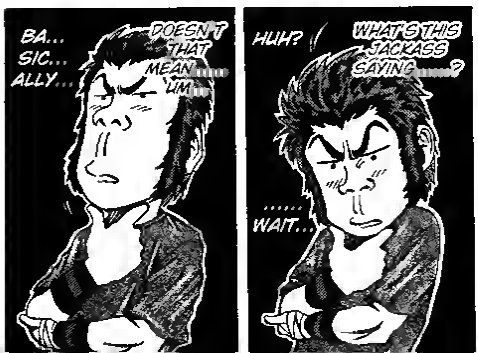

O... OKAY ...
I DUNNO! LET'S JUST GO CHECK IT OUT!
.....!!

MY SPECTACULAR RING HISTORY!
LIKE I SAID...

HUH?
WHAT IS?
1 MONTH?

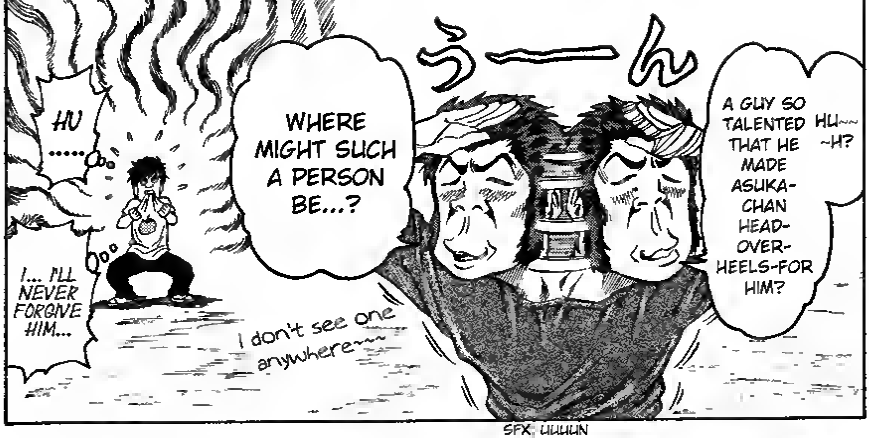

SFX: HYUUUUU
.....
ヒュー

HEH?

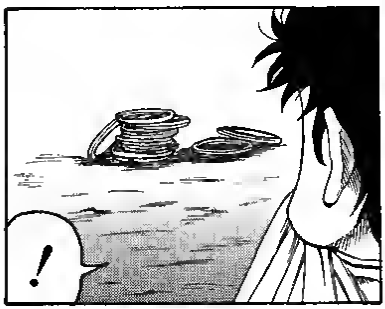

BA... SIC... ALLY...
DOESN'T THAT MEAN LIM.....
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS JACKASS SAYING.....?
..... WAIT...

WHAT WAS THAT ...?
..... HUH?
SORRY I DON'T THINK I UNDERSTAND ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WHUH?
I said I'm a super rookie who started playing Ring 1 month ago!!

PLEASE REFER TO ME AS A SUPER ROOKIE...!
YOU'RE A TOTAL NEWBIE!!!
ACTUALLY DOING IT'S A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME!!
I DO KNOW! THE END RESULT IS FUCKIN' CLEAR AS DAY!!
HE HAS A POINT...
HMM...
WH.....? WHAT'D YOU SAY, DAMN-MIT?!!
I'M OUT! SO OUT!!
NAW!! NO WAY! THIS IS FUCKING STUPIIID! THIS AIN'T GONNA BE ANY SORTA MATCH!!
ARE YOU A MORON ?!!
YOU WON'T KNOW THAT UNLESS YOU FRIGGIN' TRY!!
Hold it, you!
THERE'S NO WAY SOMEBODY WHO'S ONLY BEEN PLAYING RING FOR A MONTH CAN BE ANY MATCH AGAINST ME, IDIOT!!
SFX. PEH
A BEGINNER LIKE SUMMER DEFINITELY CAN'T BEAT HIM.....
HONESTLY THERE MAY NOT EVEN BE A THIRD YEAR THAT CAN GO UP AGAINST AKA ONE-ON-ONE.....


うーーん
HU .....
I... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM...
WHERE MIGHT SUCH A PERSON BE...?
I don't see one anywhere~~~
A GUY SO TALENTED THAT HE MADE ASUKA-CHAN HEAD-OVER-HEELS-FOR HIM?
HU~~~H?

SFX: UUUUN


!

ぬぐぐぐぐ
SFX: NUGUGUGUGU
HE JUST MADE HIS WAY INTO THE NUMBER 1 SLOT OF GUYS I WANNA SHUT UP!!
AKAICHIROU..
ER, WAS THAT HIS NAME?

Ah?

HEEEEY, SIDEBUUURNS !!
TH YOU
HEY, KEN-SAN, LET'S JUST GET PRACTICE STARTED...

SFX. SU ..

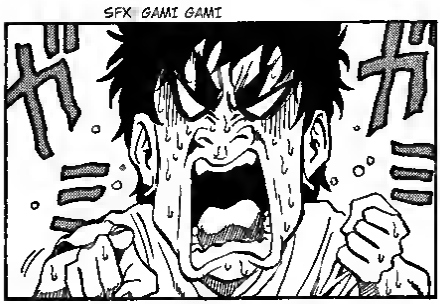
AH!
SFX TATTATTA

!!!
FOR REAL?
.....

OR DID HE JUST THROW IT RANDOMLY?
HE THREW THAT WITH ME AS THE TARGET...?
EITHER WAY, AT THIS TRAJECTORY, IT'S...

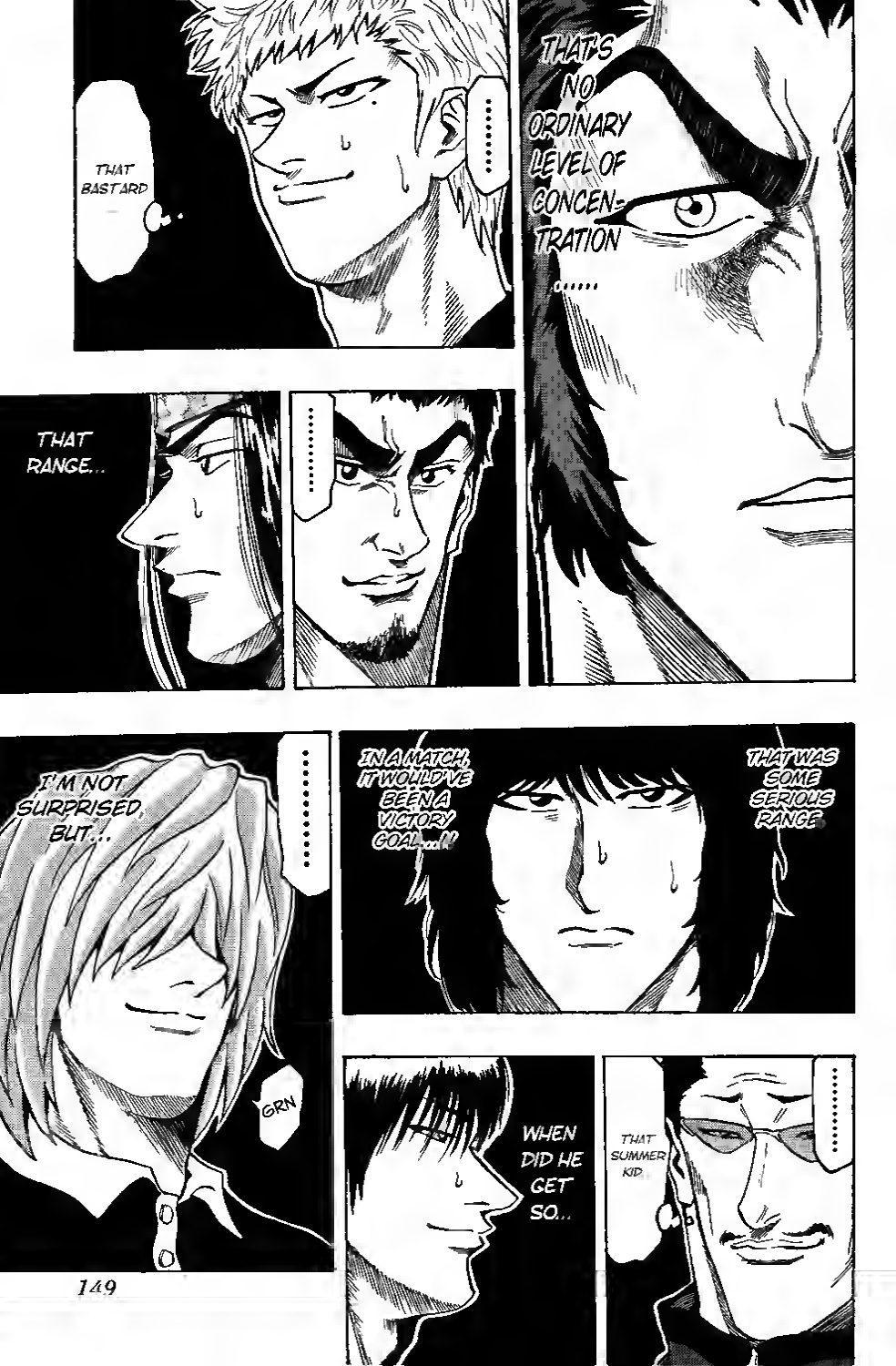
WOOPSIE!
SAH
SFX: BAIN

I TOLD JA NOT TA MOOOOOVE!!!
AHA~~~~~~ YOU DUMBASS!!


SFX: GAMI GAMI

...HM?
THAT WOULD'VE TOTALLY BEEN A RINGER!! YOU JUST GOT SCARED, YOU GUTLESS BASTARD!!

NO WAY...
HE BROKE A SWEAT FROM THAT ONE THROW...?


THAT BASTARD...
.....
THAT'S NO ORDINARY LEVEL OF CONCEN-TRATION .....
THAT RANGE...
.....
I'M NOT SURPRISED, BUT...
.....
GRN
IN A MATCH, IT WOULD'VE BEEN A VICTORY GOAL...!!
THAT WAS SOME SERIOUS RANGE
WHEN DID HE GET SO...
THAT SUMMER KID
.....

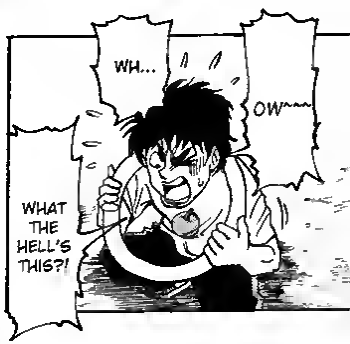
SO HIS SHOOTING SUCCESS RATE HAS GOTTEN INCOMPARABLY HIGHER...!
SUMMER HASN'T SLACKED OFF A BIT IN HIS SHOOTING PRACTICE AFTER PRACTICE.....
A GUY WHO'S STILL STICKING AROUND DURING HIS INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE.
THA WAS GREAT ...
SUM-MER-KUN...
.....
PLAY AROUND WITH HIM JUST A LITTLE...!
MAYBE I'LL
HE MIGHT HAVE A TEENSY BIT OF SENSE FOR THE GAME...
ONE MONTH OF PLAYING RING.....? I SEE.

ASUKA-CHAN'S THERE!!
LOOK BEHIND YOU!
MU?
SUM-MER!
WHERE?!!
WHUHUH?!! FER REAL?!
SFX: BAH
Heeey! Where are ya?!
WHERE ARE YOOOU?!
SU-
I DON' SEE HER!!
WHERE, WHERE?!
WHERE ARE YOU ASHUKA-SENPYAI?!

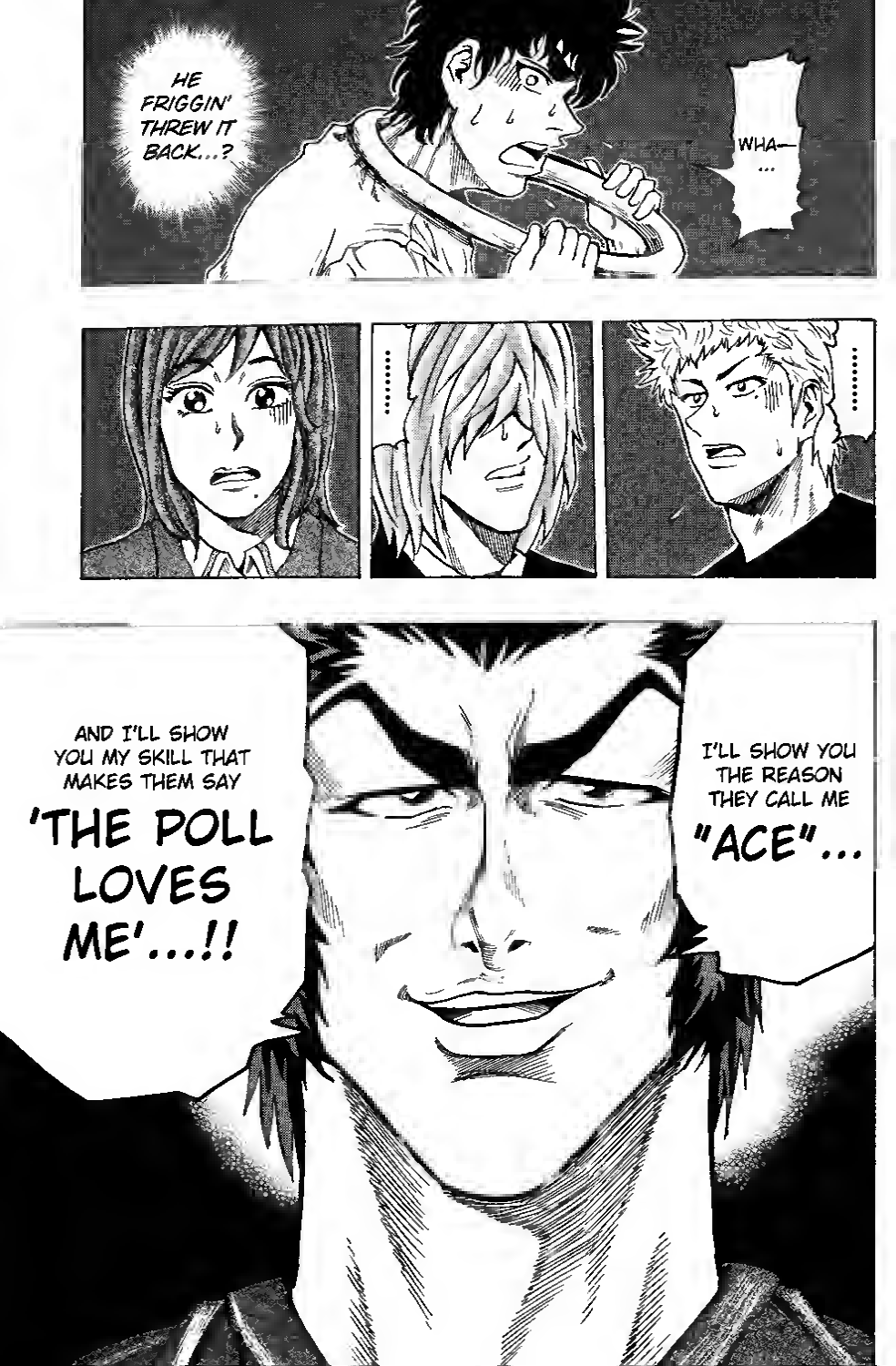
IH?
WHERE ARE YAA!!

SFX. BAH

AH.
SUM-MER!


WH...
OW
WHAT THE HELL'S THIS?!

THEN LET'S HAVE A SHOOTING CONTEST...!
IMT YOURS
.....
SHOOTING'S YOUR SPECIALTY, RIGHT?


HE FRIGGIN' THREW IT BACK...?
WHA—...
.....
.....
.....
I'LL SHOW YOU THE REASON THEY CALL ME "ACE"...
AND I'LL SHOW YOU MY SKILL THAT MAKES THEM SAY 'THE POLL LOVES ME'...!!

Shimabu's Story

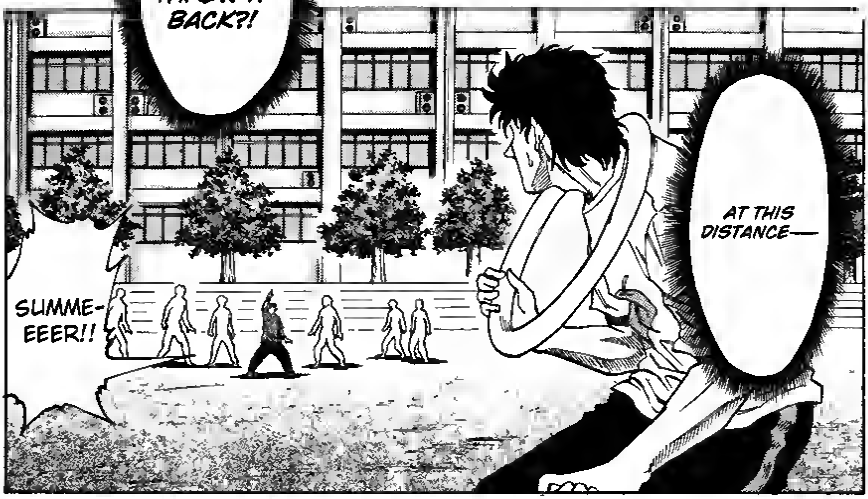
(Until I made Ring (4))

First, I had to decide if it was a team sport or an individual sport. There are individual sports like judo and kendo that have team competitions, too, (Like relays in track-and-field or long-distance relays in marathons...) but my image for this manga was something like soccer or rugby or an indoor sport like basketball or handball. I wanted to draw a team sport with a sense of speed, so I decided for now I'd start thinking about a story for a team sport. Ah, but I did kinda wanna do that long-distance relay thing. We didn't have a track team in my middle school, but there would be long-distance relays at my school, and a lot of athletes from various clubs that had the stamina for middle-distance runs would gather together to participate in these big meets. So as a member of the soccer team, I was asked to participate, too. I've always liked marathons (though I've never ran a full one) and I thought that given the tension and fun of a long-range relay, I could possibly make it into a good manga~~. Then there's kendo... And yeah, soccer or volleyball... H~m, or maybe an existing sport is better after all? ...Honestly that's what I thought several times when I was ready to throw in the towel... (hehe). Go me!

So, if I were to do a team sport, I'd have all those people to deal with. And when it comes to showing them all as a manga, there can sometimes be a bit too many... You can't show all the characters and it's really not a lot of fun to draw characters even you don't really care about. An ideal number would be around 5~6 people, I thought... So something like volleyball or basketball would be ideal. If it were something like rugby or American football, when trying to make it a manga, I just wouldn't be able to properly draw every person. But I figured that being so fixated on the number of people in the first stages wasn't good, so I decided not to put too much concern on that. Anyhow, what was I gonna do...

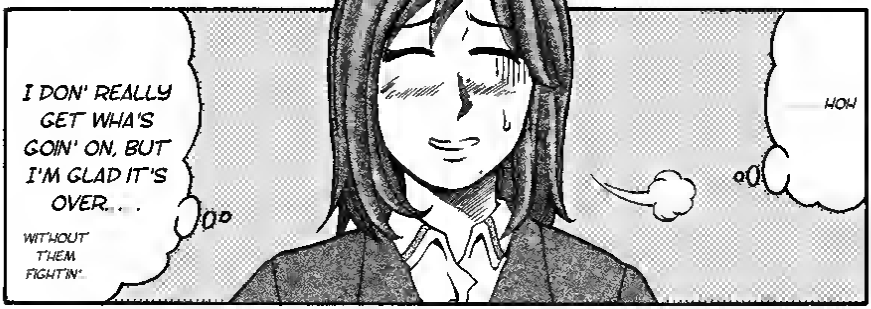
Continued on p180~

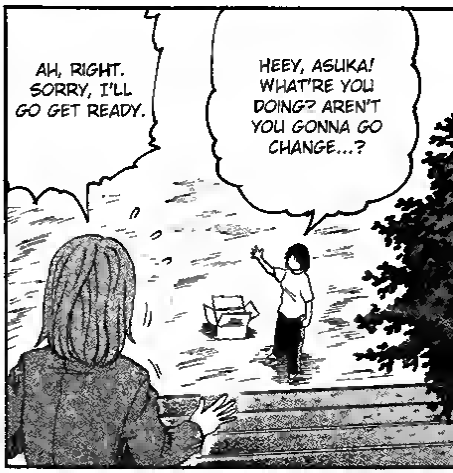
Ring15 : "Rodeo"...!!



Ring 15 : "Rodeo"...!!

WHA~~ WHAT'RE YA DOING, KEN-SAN?!
YOU PACK OF IDIOTS!
OW~~~~
TMT YOURS
I HEARD ABOUT WHY YOU'RE FIGHTING FROM SAORI.
GEEZ ...
DON'T WASTE OUR IMPORTANT PRACTICE TIME WITH STUPID BULLSHIT LIKE THIS...! WE NEED TO USE THIS TIME WISELY, WE HAVE A BIG MEET COMING UP.....
KIN KIN KIN
NO, NOT AT ALL, GENERAL! IN A WAY, THIS IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS A MEET!
QUIT CALLING ME GENERAL...
HEEEEY, SAORI!!!!!
DON'T TATTLE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS!
OKAY, LISTEN UP, YOU...! I'M GONNA GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE AS YOUR FUTURE BIG BROTHER!!
WHO THE HECK'S A FUTURE BIG BROTHER?!
I'D SERIOUSLY RATHER THAT NOT HAPPEN.





T/N AKA-CHAN, IN ADDITION TO BEING A CONDESCENDING NAME FOR A PERSON NAMED AKA, IS A WORD MEANING BABY

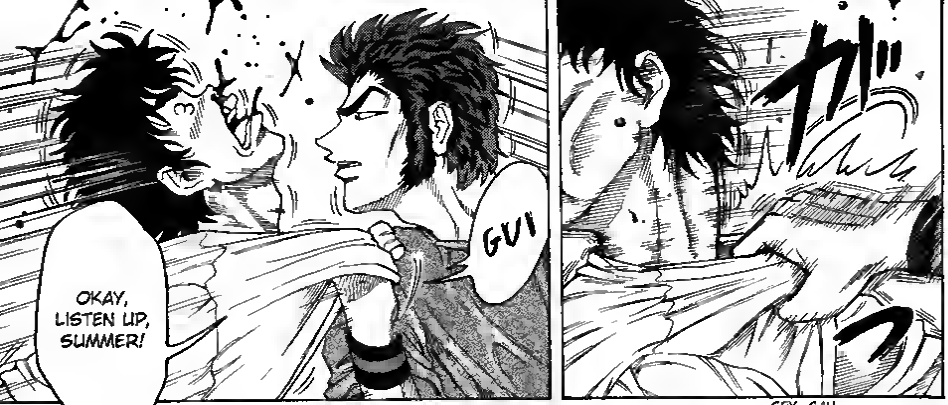
SO YOU'RE STOPPING BECAUSE THE CAPTAIN SAID SO...?
YOU SURE DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD A LOT...
A REAL EASILY TAUGHT BABY, AREN'T YOU?
.....
WHAT'D YOU SAY...?

T/N: CHIMPIRA IS A HOODLUM OR A SMALL-TIME YAKUZA
CHINKO IS SLANG FOR PENIS.

THIS GUY WAS ABLE TO IMITATE MY TECHNIQUE THAT I WORKED SO DESPERATELY TO LEARN, THE SUPER-LONG SPECIAL GREAT HURRICANE BOMBER SHOOT II.....
LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.....!!
YOU SERIOUSLY CALL IT THAT?!!
I THINK YOU'VE LIT THE FLAME OF MY COMPETITIVE SPIRIT! ME, THE ONE THAT HATES LOSING MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD...!!
AND WHILE MY PRIDE HAS LET OUT A SCREAM OF PAIN...
WHEN HE GETS LIKE THIS, SUMMER WON'T STOP UNTIL HE'S WON.....
HIS SWITCH HAS BEEN TOTALLY FLICKED.....
AAAAAH... THIS IS HOPELESS.
I UNDER-STAND, SUMMEE-EEER!
OKAY, GOT IT.

IZUMI-CHAN, PLEASE GIVE ME JUST 5 MINUTES.
I'LL MAKE SURE THIS IS OVER SOON.
.....
YOU CAN JUST LET 'EM DO IT, IZUMI-SAN!
LET'S GET PRACTICE STARTED!!
SHEESH
.....
GO AHEAD, IF YOU WANT.
LET'S GO, TOKITA!
JOGGING!!
EH...? BUT.....
IT'LL BE AN EVEN WORSE SHOCK IF PEOPLE ARE WATCHING...
ESPECIALLY FOR HIM...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
.....

OKAAAY, THEN.
SFX: ZAH ZAH
IT WAS GONNA BE A SHOOTING MATCH, RIGHT, SUMMER?
CAN I JUST SAY ONE THING BEFORE WE GET STARTED?
I JUST CAN'T KEEP IT IN ANY LONGER
!
SFX: BAKYA
OBUA!!

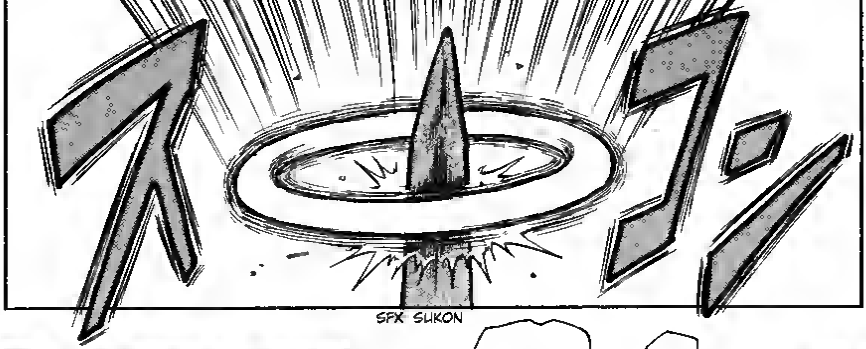

OKAY, LISTEN UP, SUMMER!
GUI
SFX. GAH

OKAY?!
DON'T CALL ME AKA-CHAN AGAIN, YOU SHITTY BRAT...!!
PEOPLE CALLING ME AKA-CHAN GETS ME WAY MORE HYPER-PISSED THAN ANYTHING ELSE...!

SFX. JI~~N
I'VE BEEN DYIN' TO PUNCH THAT GUY!
A... AA~~~~ THAT MADE ME FEEL A BIT BETTER~~~
じ~ん
SFX. DOH
LET'S GET THE MATCH STARTED!
..... OKAY THEN,
GOT IT?

T/N: -CHIN IS AN AFFECTIONATE ALTERATION OF -CHAN. KURO MEANS BLACK, AS OPPOSED TO AKA MEANING RED

THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL A BEGINNER'S GONNA BEAT ME...
AND I'M GONNA SHOW YOU WHY, SUMMEE-EEER.
HOW WE THROW IT?
AT THIS POINT THERE'S NO CHANCE AT ALL I'M GONNA MISS ANY FREE THROWS....
Hey, hey, for real? Aka-chi~~~~n,
HM?
HERE'S OUR FIRST SHOT...
SFX. SU
SFX BIH
AMONG THE MANY WAYS TO THROW, THIS ONE'S THE EASIEST TO CONTROL...
SO YOU COULD CONSIDER IT THE EASY-STYLE OF THROWING.
IT'S THE MOST COMMONLY USED AND MOST POPULAR STYLE. MOST PEOPLE DOING RING TOSSES AND FRISBEE THROW THIS WAY...
YOU START WITH AN INWARD STANCE THEN YOU THROW IT AS YOU MOVE OUTWARD. THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED AN "IN-THROW".
THIS IS A THROWING STYLE CALLED AN "IN-THROW".


SFX: SUKON

HMPH... THAT'LL BE A CINCH...!
AN IN-THROW, HUH...?

!
YOU'RE UP NEXT, SUMMER.
THERE
TRY TO GET A RINGER WITH THE SAME SHOT AS ME.

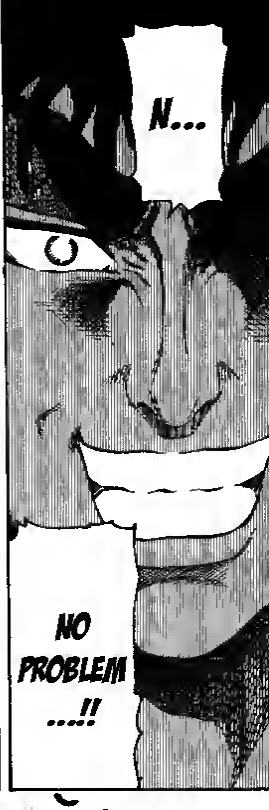
SFX: DOH
DIDJA SEE THAT ONE, AKA-CHIN?!!
ORAA !!
IT'S 1 TO 1!!

SFX: SHUH
URYA!
HM
PRETTY GOOD

THE TRIAL
STARTS HERE, SUMMEE-EEER.

AND DO AN "OUT-THROW" ...!!
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'LL TAKE AN OUTWARD STANCE.
FOR THE 2ND SHOT, WE'LL DO THE OPPOSITE OF THE 1ST SHOT...
SFX: SU...
THEY SAY IT'S SEVERAL TIMES MORE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL THAN THE IN-THROW...
NU...?
SHIH!
SFX: BAIN
OKAY, NOW YOU GIVE IT A TRY, SUMMER.
SFX: FUWAH
SFX: GAH

HERE IT GOOOOOOES!
NO MATTER HOW YOU MAKE THE THROWING STYLE, I HAVEN'T GOT THE TEENSIEST INTENTION TO MISS AT THIS RANGE!!
HEEY, THAT'S NOT THE THROWING STYLE!!
HEEY!!
HM?

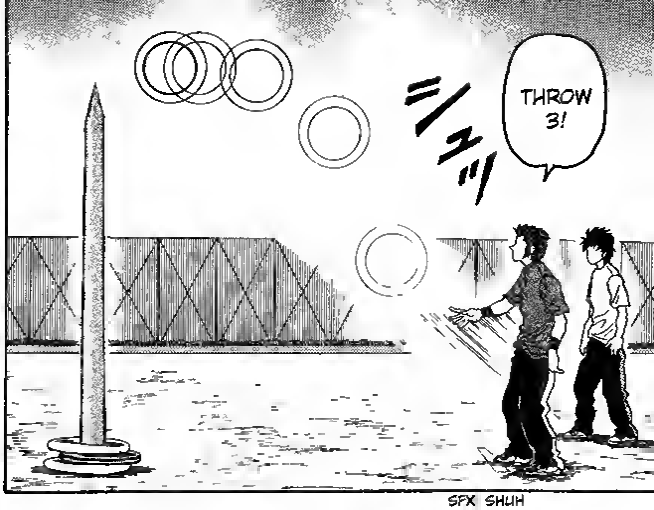

N...
NO PROBLEM ...!!

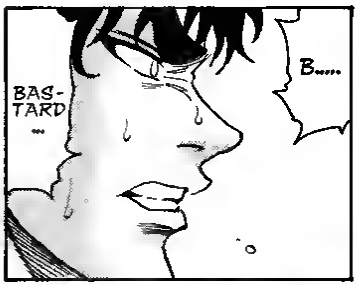
IT'S KINDA HARD TO HOLD IT THIS WAY...
HM? LIKE THIS.
HERE, LIKE THIS.

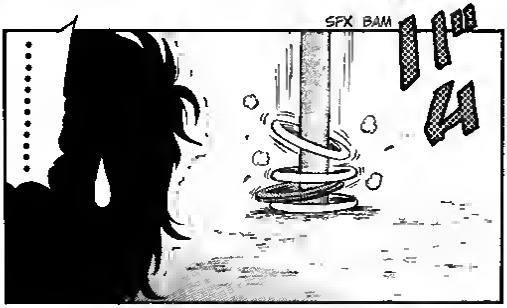
SFX: HORYAA BUNN
うおりゃあ
AWW RIIIGHT! TAKE THEIIS!!
THIS'LL MAKE IT 2 TO 2!!

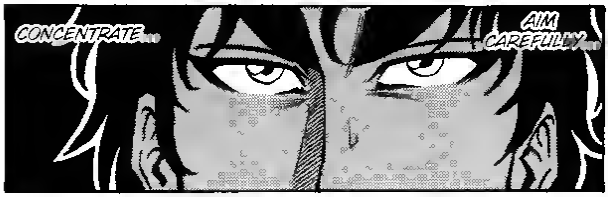
HUH?
IN..
GR
SFX: SU
THEN THERE'S THE "UNDER-THROW" THAT'S RELEASED FROM BELOW.
IS A THROW THAT'S ACTUALLY USED PRETTY OFTEN IN MATCHES.
THIS...
Going straight to the next one, you bastard?!! And why the hell were those letters for "grin" so damn big?!!
OKAY, NEXT...
BUT IT WENT IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT DIRECTION...!!
SHI-------T..... I AIMED AND EVERYTHING BEFORE I THREW IT.....

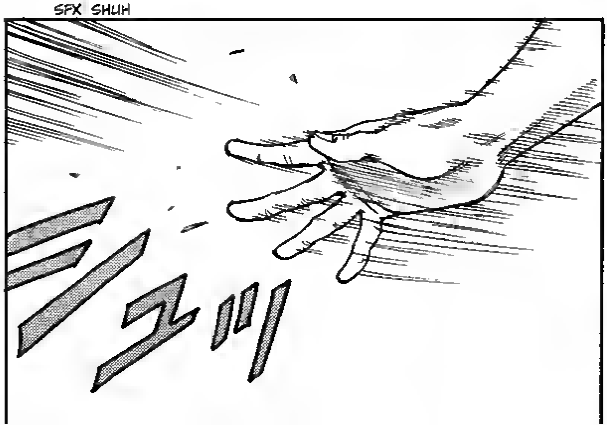
カ
SFX: KAH

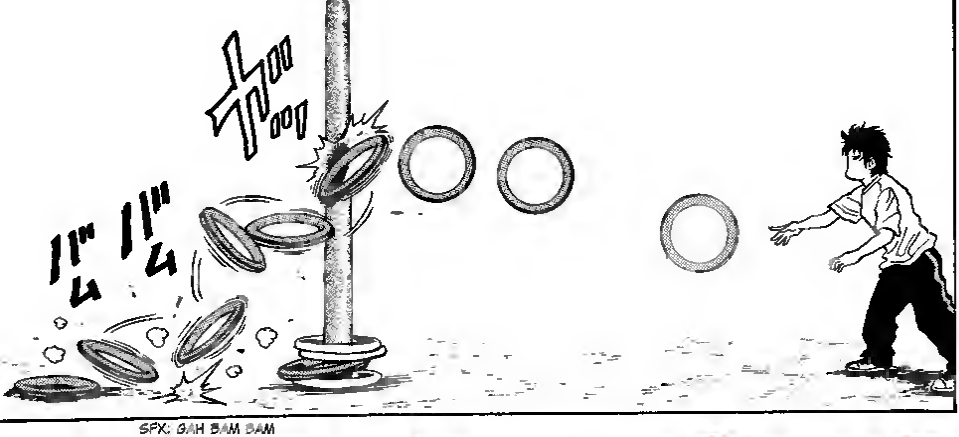

THROW 3!
SFX SHUH


BAS-TARD...
B.....

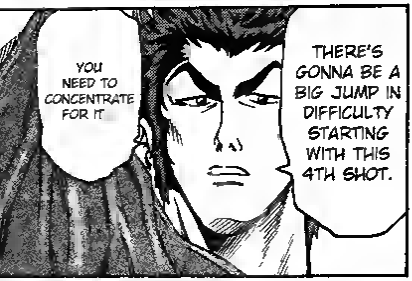

SFX BAM


CONCENTRATE...
AIM CAREFULLY...


SFX SHUH



SFX: GAH BAM BAM

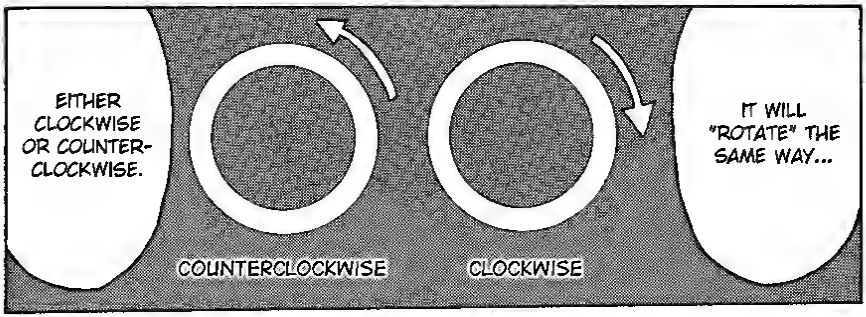


IT'S A THROW USED PRETTY OFTEN WHEN YOU'RE PASSING AND YOU WANNA GET AROUND AN OPPONENT,
LITERALLY A THROW WHERE THE RING BOUNCES.
BUT IT'S BARELY EVER USED WHEN YOU RE SHOOTING.
ALSO YOU CAN'T REALLY USE IT ON RAINY DAYS.

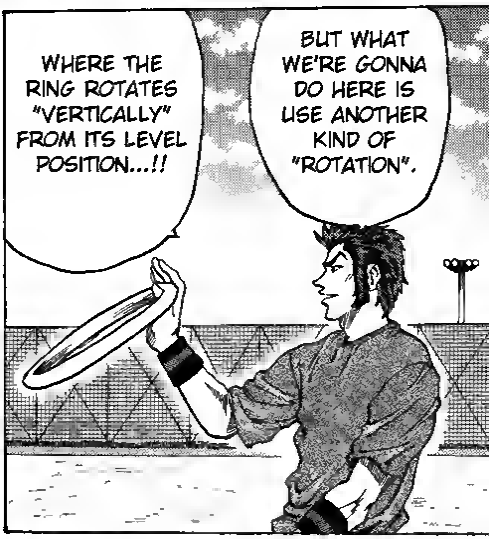
SFX: BAM
HM!
ALL RIGHT
NIIIICE OOONE!!
SFX: DOH
How 'bout that?
Ngh...

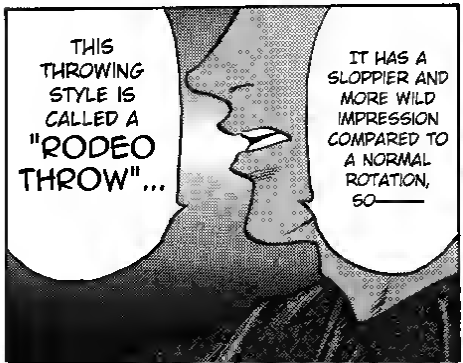
SUMME-EEER, 4TH SHOT——
SFX BUNN
YOU PIECE'A SHiiiiiT!!
AT THIS POINT ……
……
FAILURE—
A~~~…
SFX. BECHI BAM
BUH
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR!
I'M GONNA SHOW YOU A THROW …
THIS IS THE LAST ONE, SUMME-EEER.
IT COULDN'T AFFECT WHO WON OR LOST, BUT… THEY MOVED ON TO THE 5TH SHOT——
!
AKA'S SHOT WOULD SHOCK ANYONE……

NORMALLY NO MATTER HOW YOU THROW A RING——
SFX: SU...


EITHER CLOCKWISE OR COUNTER-CLOCKWISE.
COUNTERCLOCKWISE
CLOCKWISE
IT WILL "ROTATE" THE SAME WAY...

HOW DO YOU THROW IT...?
THIS IS A STANCE...?


WHERE THE RING ROTATES "VERTICALLY" FROM ITS LEVEL POSITION...!!
BUT WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO HERE IS USE ANOTHER KIND OF "ROTATION".

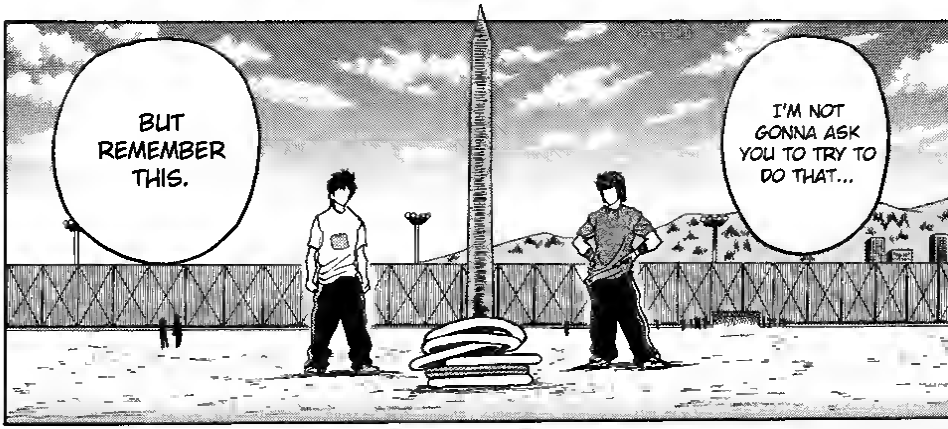

THIS THROWING STYLE IS CALLED A "RODEO THROW"...
IT HAS A SLOPPIER AND MORE WILD IMPRESSION COMPARED TO A NORMAL ROTATION, SO——

WHAT?!
A "RODEO"?!
THAT'S ....
AH...
WE'RE GONNA GET TO SEE AKA'S RODEO!
HM?
.....
FOR REAL?
WHAT'S THAT?
RODEO ...?
HERE'S THE SHOT!

SFX PIH
SFX. SHARURURURURU
SFX GAPA
THAT'S THE ROTATION——?!!

THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN SOMEBODY SCORE A RODEO SHOT IN REAL LIFE!!
HOW ?!
NO WAAAY!
AWE-SOME!
SFX: AAAAAAAAAA
ON TOP OF THAT IT HAD A NEGATIVE ROTATION...
.....
IS WHAT'S SO OMINOUS ABOUT AKA...
THE FACT THAT HE CAN SCORE A SHOT LIKE THAT.....
UO AAA AAA AH!
HE GOT IT IIIIIN!!

SO BASICALLY, SUMMEEEER,


BUT REMEMBER THIS.
I'M NOT GONNA ASK YOU TO TRY TO DO THAT...

DO YOU HAVE THE SAME CONTROL WITH YOUR LEFT HAND?
P... POINT 5 WAYS?!
I CAN'T DO ALL OF THEM BUT THE IN-THOW I CAN...
!

YOU'VE ONLY MASTERED 1... NO, 0.5 OF THOSE.
THERE ARE DOZENS OF WAYS TO THROW A RING BESIDES THESE, TOO...
...THAT'S THE WHOLE OF IT...

GOOD WITH MY "LEFT HAND"...!!
YOU CAN'T DO MUCH IN AN ACTUAL MATCH.....
UNLESS YOU CAN DO THE SAME THROW WITH YOUR WEAKER HAND,
BY THE WAY I'M ACTUALLY .....
SUMMER FOR YOU.
WELL,...
THAT'S
ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT ...?
WHAT ...
WAIT.
SO BASICALLY, THIS MATCH—
HM?
I'VE STILL GOT THIS LAST THROW LEFT, YA KNOW...
I'VE .....
HUH?
I WIN THE WHOLE THING?
THE RODEM, RIGHT? ...WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT IF I SCORE THAT ONE...

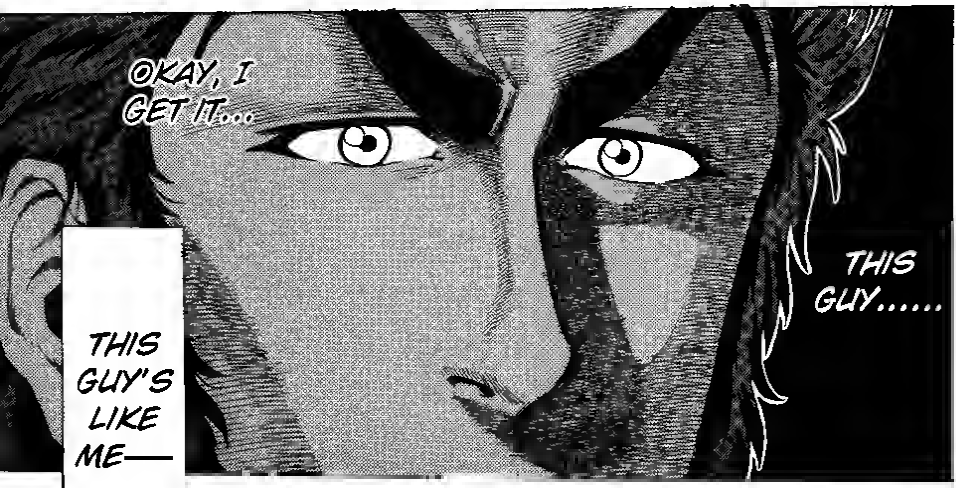
Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (5))

Anyhow, what sport was I gonna do... My first idea was, the first thing that'd probably come to mind for anybody, a "ball game." There are so many sports that use a ball already, but I still put a lot of effort into coming up with one. Could you do something with a super-ball sort thing where it bounces all over the place? Or maybe go in another direction and use a table tennis ball or a soft-ball tennis ball, some relatively light ball, could I make something like that work? That sorta thing..... I thought the actual tools should be something I'm really familiar with. I don't play the sports you use a soccer ball or a volleyball or a golf ball with, so I don't use them, but I'm the type who likes to have those things lying around my house (Uh, not sure why that is). Uh, anyhow, yeah... (Hehe). It felt good when I touched a volleyball, I tried dribbling a soccer ball and I liked standing on and trying to balance on it (I still have no idea what's going on here...). I felt like throwing and kicking things was a pretty instinctual thing. Like if you're in a wide-open space and there's a baseball around, you just wanna throw it. If there's a soccer ball around, you wanna kick it. This is a bit of a digression, but when I was in high school I used to kick volleyballs around in the gym for fun a lot. Volleyballs are light, so if you kick them hard they'll really change shape which I thought was kinda funny. ...Though you don't normally kick a volleyball, so my teachers got mad at me a lot.

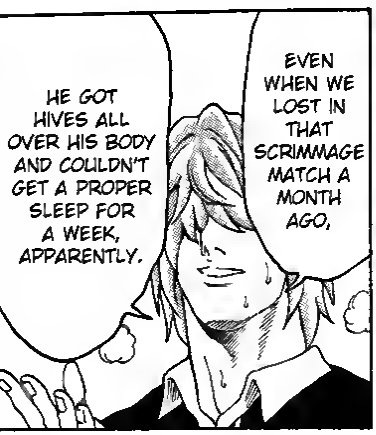
And sometimes on the train, I'd see those lacrosse... uh, what is it? That rod with the net on the end thing? I'd see groups of people carrying those, but I didn't think just having those and carrying them around was all that interesting. Probably. In baseball just having a glove is kinda boring, too, so I figured you really needed the ball... But when you really like those sports, I think you end up really caring about all the tools...

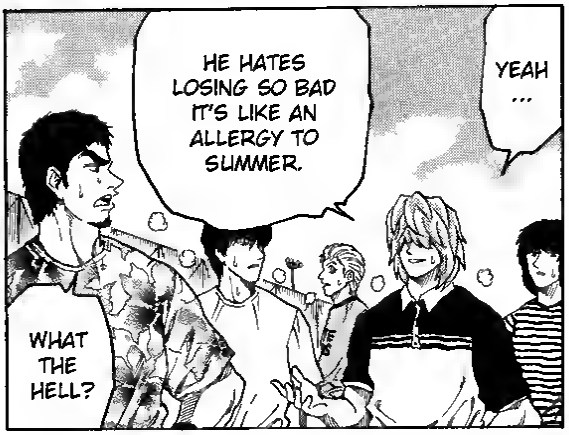
Continued on p205~



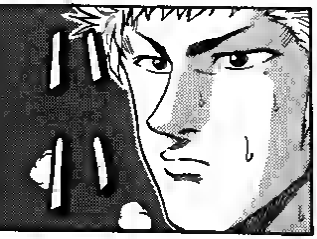
Ring16 : A Brief Defeat...

Ring16 :
A Brief Defeat...

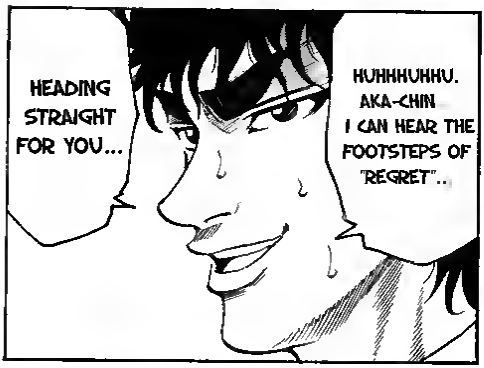

EVEN WHEN WE LOST IN THAT SCRIMMAGE MATCH A MONTH AGO,
HE GOT HIVES ALL OVER HIS BODY AND COULDN'T GET A PROPER SLEEP FOR A WEEK, APPARENTLY.



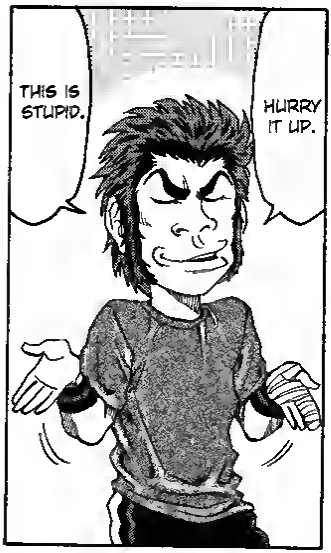
SFX: HAHAHAHAHA

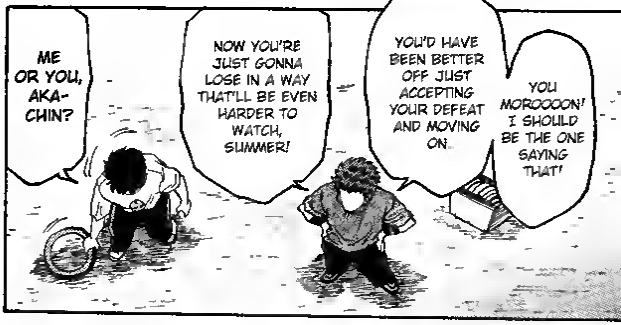


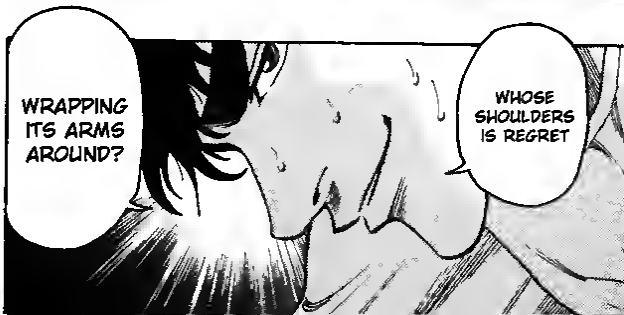
IF YOU GET THE LAST THROW, YOU WIN...
ALL RIGHT, SUMMER, SURE.


HEADING STRAIGHT FOR YOU...
HUHHHUHHU. AKA-CHIN I CAN HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS OF "REGRET"...

IF YOU CAN GET IT, THAT IS...
YEAH ...
FOR REAL?!
Also it's not rodem it's rodeo.


THIS IS STUPID.
HURRY IT UP.


ME OR YOU, AKA-CHIN?
NOW YOU'RE JUST GONNA LOSE IN A WAY THAT'LL BE EVEN HARDER TO WATCH, SUMMER!
YOU'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF JUST ACCEPTING YOUR DEFEAT AND MOVING ON.
YOU MOROOOON! I SHOULD BE THE ONE SAYING THAT!


WRAPPING ITS ARMS AROUND?
WHOSE SHOULDERS IS REGRET

SFX: PU
WHAT SORTA STANCE IS THAT...?
SFX: SU
IT WAS LIKE THIS.....
I'M PRETTY SURE.....
HE THREW IT WITH A SORTA OUTWARD PUSHING MOTION...
HM?

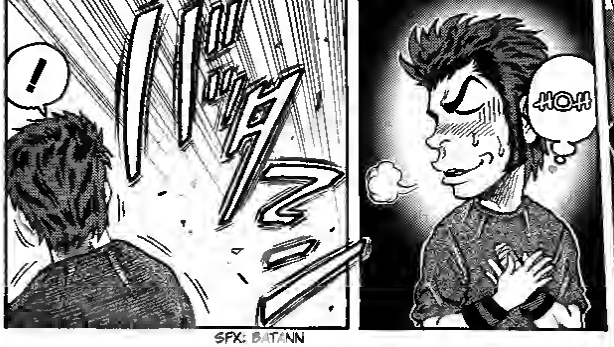
This kid's really getting serious...
UWA——

SFX BUN

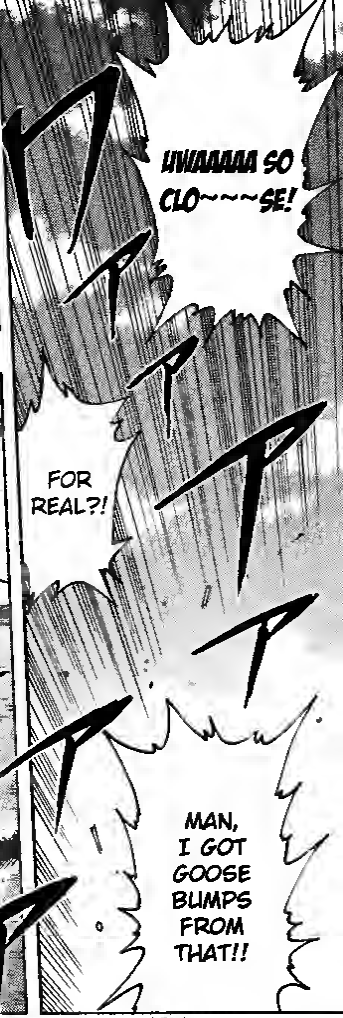
OH!
IT'S KINDA SLOPPY BUT...
OO?!
DOESN'T THAT LOOK GOOD?!
!
GO IN!!

SFX: KAH
COME OOON!!
OOA?!

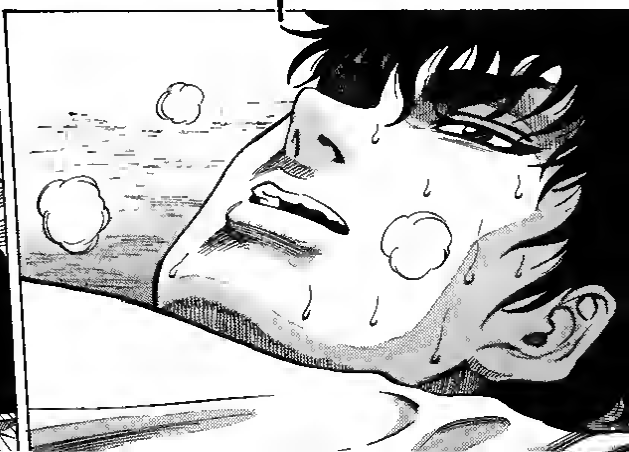
I HATE TEXAS



SFX: BATANN

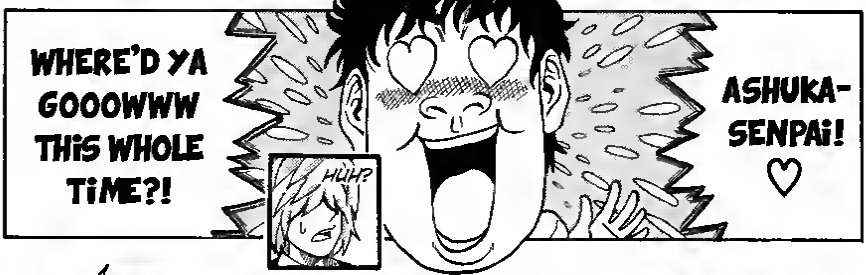


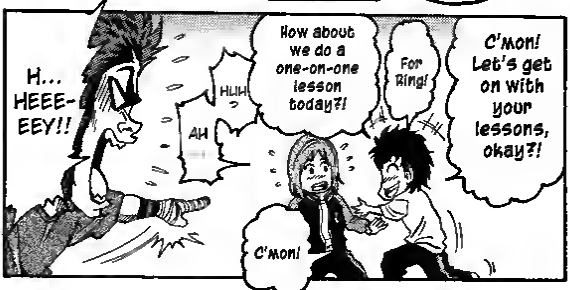
SFX: WAAAAAA

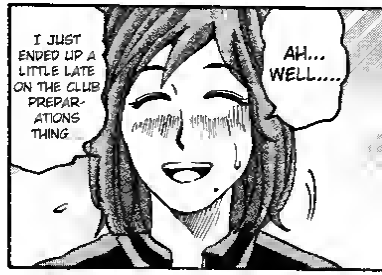


SUMMER.
IT'S A COMPLETE DEFEAT FOR YOU...
HM?
!
HE'LL PROBABLY FEEL LIKE HE WANTS TO RUN OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW.....
AS A REACTION TO HIS DEFEAT-ALLERGY...
.....
WHAT'S SUMMER-KUN DOIN'?
Why's he laying down somewhere like that?
HUH?

SFX. GAPAH BIKUH (SURPRISE)





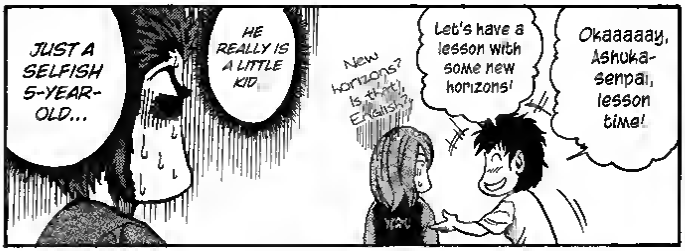


HM?
DIDJA FORGET WHAT YOU PROMISED IF YOU LOST THAT
YOU LOSER!
AH?
DANGIT SUMMEEEEER! DON'T JUST APPROACH ASUKA-CHAN LIKE IT'S NOTHING, MORON!!

HEEEEEY! WHAT ARE YOU, A LITTLE KID?!!
I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF SUCH A THING
YOU KNOW YOU DID, DON'T PLAY DUMB!!
SFX: SHUBOOOH
SFX: FUUUUH
SUM-MER...
I ACCEPT MY DEFEAT.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA, AKA-CHIN.
but seri-ously...
Hey, Summer... I get that you hate losing,
...Geez .....
AH?
THIS TIME?
IT'S MY LITTER DEFEAT...
AS I AM NOW, I CAN'T BEAT YOU NO MATTER WHAT I DO...
THIS TIME... THAT IS.

SO PREPARE YOURSELF, AKA-CHIN!
SOMEDAY, I'M DEFINITELY GONNA BEAT YOU AND IT'LL END WITH MY VICTORY...!!

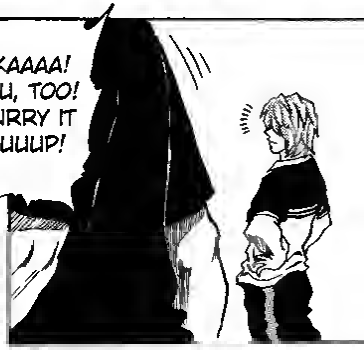
NOBODY SAID THAT THIS WAS A ONE-ROUND MATCH...
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE STILL ONLY PART-WAY THROUGH IT...
Part-way?!


JUST A SELFISH 5-YEAR-OLD...
HE REALLY IS A LITTLE KID.
New horizons? Is that English?
Let's have a lesson with some new horizons!
Okaaaaay, Ashuka-senpai, lesson time!

.....

ISSU!
2 AT A TIME!
I WANT A 30-METER DASH AND 5 SETS GOING THERE AND BACK!
OKAAAY, PRACTICE!

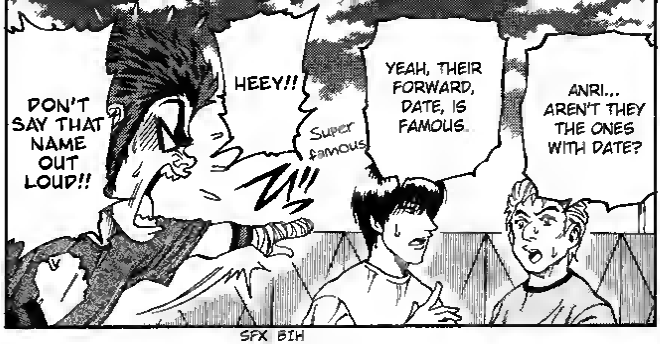
SEN-PAI!
GEEZ, WHAT A WASTE OF TIME THAT WAS.
AYYY-YYE!


AKAAAA! YOU, TOO! HURRY IT UUUUP!

KING
KING
KING
HM?
DOESN' HAVE TA BE NOW 'ER ANYTHIN'...
WOULD YOU MIND HAVIN' A MATCH WITH ME, TOO.....?
KING
KING
KIN
!
ARE YOU GUYS DOING WHAT YOU SHOULD BE?!
HEE-EEY!
WHERE'RE THERE SO MANY GUYS FULL OF ENERGY IN THIS YEAR'S 1ST YEARS.....?
.....HEY, HEY... IF IT AIN'T LITTLE-BROTHER-KUN...

AH!
SEN-SEI!
OIIIISSU!
FUJI-SENSEI!!
SFX: NOSSHI NOSSHI
IIIIISSU!!
SUPER-VISOR!!
ISSU! AKA TAICHIROU HAS JUST RETURNED, SENSEI!!
MM.
MUST'VE BEEN QUITE A HARD TIME AT TRAINING CAMP, EH, AKA-KUN?
SFX: BIH
SFX: ORAA
ALLLL RIGHT, WOULD EVERYONE GATHER 'ROUND FOR A MINUTE?!
I HAVE SOME NEWS!
NU-?!
GATHER TOGETHER EVERY-BODYYYY!!
HURRY IT UP, SLOW-POKES!!
OKAY, SENSEI! I'M #1!
IN GATHERING HERE!
SHUT UP, SUMMER!
HN..... OKAY...

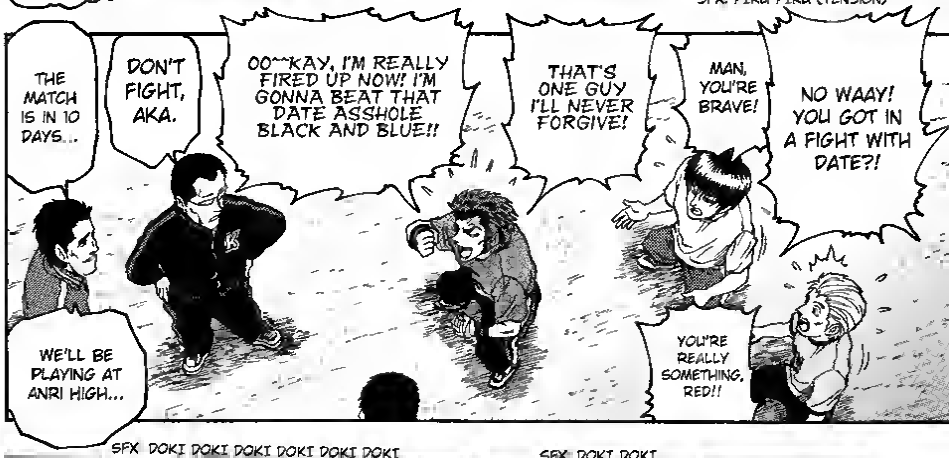
SO FOR OUR FINAL PREPARATION, I'VE SETUP A PRACTICE MATCH.
WE'RE FINALLY NOW COMING UP ON THE INTER-HIGH PREFECTURAL PRELIMINARIES...
WITH AKA-KUN BACK WITH US NOW,
UHHHH .....
!!
WHO'RE WE AGAINST, SENSEI?
FOR REAL?!!
PRACTICE MATCH?!
IS THAT GOOD?
WHA'S THAT?
ANRI GOT 2ND IN THE PREFECTURE LAST YEAR, DIDN'T THEY?!
Oh, no!
ANRIIII?!
YEAH, THEY'RE GOOD.
I HATE TEXAS
THOSE GUYS ARE GOOD!!
ANRI HIGH SCHOOL!
THEY'RE A FAMOUS "RING" SCHOOL...!
Even I got an invitation from them at one point.
ANRI HIGH SCHOOL... THEY'VE GONE TO NATIONALS REPRESENTING SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE A BUNCH OF TIMES IN THE PAST.



SFX BIH

I HEARD ALL ABOUT THAT, AKA-KUN..
I HEARD THAT WHEN YOU GOT THAT HAND INJURY.. THE PERSON YOU WERE FIGHTING WITH WAS DATE-KUN, YES..?
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I HAD TO APOLOGIZE TO THE STAFF AFTERWARDS...

SFX PIKU PIKU (TENSION)


THE MATCH IS IN 10 DAYS...
DON'T FIGHT, AKA.
OO~~KAY, I'M REALLY FIRED UP NOW! I'M GONNA BEAT THAT DATE ASSHOLE BLACK AND BLUE!!
THAT'S ONE GUY I'LL NEVER FORGIVE!
MAN, YOU'RE BRAVE!
NO WAAY! YOU GOT IN A FIGHT WITH DATE?!
WE'LL BE PLAYING AT ANRI HIGH...
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, RED!!

SFX DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI

SFX DOKI DOKI

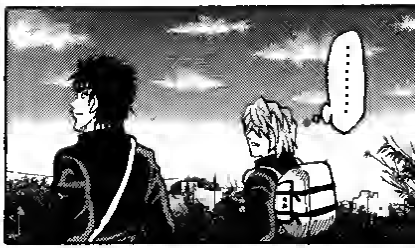
IF I GET A BUTT-LOAD OF EXPERIENCE POINTS IN 10 DAYS AND LEVEL UP, I COULD STILL BE IN IT!!
SHUT THE HELL UP, AKA-CHIN!!
YOU COULD WHAT ...?
This ain't Friggin' Dragon Quest, idiot!!
I'M TELLIN' YA, NOTHING'S GONNA CHANGE IN 10 DAYS!!
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!!
UH, YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE IN THE GAME NO MATTER WHAT.
I'VE GOTTEN REALLY DOKI-DOKI ALL OF A SUDDEN~~!
A... AW MA~~N, ASHUKA-SENPAI!
I'M SO NERVOUS...!!
ドキドキ
ドキドキ
ドキドキ
SO NO POINT IN GETTING NERVOUS.
SFX: DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI
AS WELL AS A MATCH AGAINST TWO B-TEAMS MADE UP OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLAYERS SO THERE'LL BE 2 MATCHES TAKING PLACE
WILL HAVE A MATCH AGAINST THE A-TEAMS OF REGULARS
THE MATCH
OH, HERE THEY GO AGAIN...
No there won't!!
There's gonna be some dramatic changes!!
FOR THE B-TEAM, THERE'S QUITE A POSSIBILITY YOU COULD BE IN THE MATCH, SUMMER-KUN.
TO BE HONEST, IT'LL BE QUITE A PROBLEM FOR THE A-TEAM, BUT...
Right?! I CAN BE IN THE A-TEAM, CAN'T I?!
Not the A-team, Moron!! In fact you're not even gonna be in the B-Team!!
2 MATCHES?
HOH?

No ye won't!!!
I WILL!!!
YOU FRIGGIN' WON'T!!
YES I WILL!!
No you wooon't!!
YES I WIIILL!!
.....
THERE'S REALLY NO WAY YOU CAN BE ON THE A-TEAM RIGHT OFF THE BAT...
You're supposed to be on my side, Toki!
NA---~~W
GODDAMM!~~~~~T! THAT BASTARD AKA-CHI~~~~~N! I'M DEFINITELY GONNA GET BETTER AND JOIN THE A-TEAM, DAMM!~~T!!
AH? HEARD WHAT?
ANYHOW, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD THAT, SUMMER...
.....

THAT WAS AN INSTANT, 15-seconds OF FRUSTRATION, MAX...!!
WHA..... NO FRICKIN' WAY!!
IS THAT A LOT?
WAS GETTING BEATEN SO BADLY ACTUALLY KINDA REFRESHING?
HEARD YOU EVER SAY THE WORDS "IT'S MY UTTER DEFEAT".
HUH?
HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN IT GOES IN THE GOAL?
HEY, TOKI! WHEN YOU THROW A RING,
I MEAN THE MOMENT YOU GET A RINGER ...
HM?
BUT..... GOOD ON YOU NOT LOSING YOUR NERVE AND CRYING, SUMMER.
YEA-AAAH ...
I GUESS SO.....
OR SOMETHING .....
UH... WELL, I GUESS I'M HAPPY...
JUST, SIMPLY SPEAKING!
AIN'CHA CRAZY HAPPY?
HOW DO YA FEEL?
ER... I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS I'M REMEMBERING EXACTLY, BUT...
Deja vu?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAN?
SO I GET THIS CRA~~~~ZY GOOD FEELING...
WITH ME... I SHIVER FOR A SECOND AND IT GOES DOWN MY SPINE... I ALSO GET SOME SORTA DEJA VU-LIKE FEELING...

IF I CAN GET GOOD AT SCORING WITH ALL THOSE OTHER KINDS OF SHOTS...
I'LL BET THAT'D FEEL PRETTY INCREDIBLE...
ANYHOOOW... IT FEELS GOOD...
AND SINCE I FEEL THIS GOOD THROWING IT NORMALLY...

WHY, YOU'VE HAD THAT DELIGHTED LOOK ON YOUR FACE...
SO THAT'S WHY...?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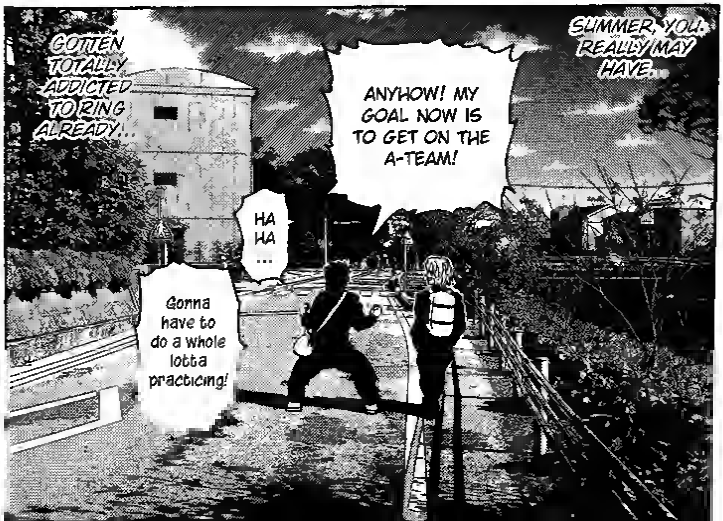
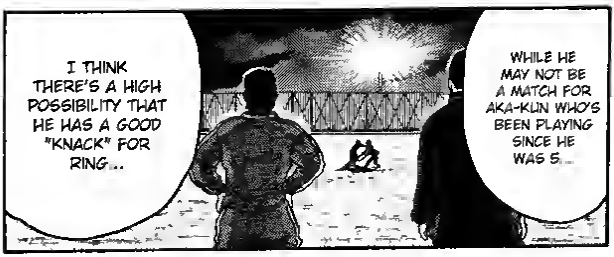

GOTTEN TOTALLY ADDICTED TO RING ALREADY...
ANYHOW! MY GOAL NOW IS TO GET ON THE A-TEAM!
SUMMER, YOU REALLY MAY HAVE...
HA HA ...
Gonna have to do a whole lotta practicing!

SFX: KAH
DID YOU HEAR, SENSEI?
HUHU .. GEEZ... THAT BEGINNER WITH 1 MONTH OF RING EXPERIENCE ..
CHALLENGED A GENIUS WHO'S BEEN PLAYING RING SINCE HE WAS AROUND 5 YEARS OLD .. IT WAS SORT OF PRAISEWORTHY...
.....
HM?
ABOUT THE RING DUEL THAT SUMMER KID HAD WITH AKA TODAY.
NO .. I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THAT.
"THE GOLDEN AGE",
DO YOU KNOW THE PHRASE, IZUMI...?
HUH?
YES
IN THE SPORTS WORLD, THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL THE ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL AGE WHERE THERE'S REMARKABLE GROWTH OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM
THEY SAY IT'S AN IMPORTANT TIME WHERE WHAT YOU DID IN THAT AGE HIGHLY EFFECTS YOUR PLAY ONCE YOU BECOME AN ADULT.....

YOU SEE, HANAGATA-KUN...
APPARENTLY DID A LOT OF "RING-TOSS" WHEN HE WAS RIGHT AROUND THAT AGE...


WHILE HE MAY NOT BE A MATCH FOR AKA-KUN WHO'S BEEN PLAYING SINCE HE WAS 5...
I THINK THERE'S A HIGH POSSIBILITY THAT HE HAS A GOOD "KNACK" FOR RING...

R.....
RING TOSS ....SIR.....?

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THEM NEXT YEAR...

WHERE THEY ARE 2 YEARS FROM NOW...
NO...

[2] RING (End)

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (6))

I'm just gonna keep going with these digressions, I guess. Back when I started little-league baseball, I wouldn't use the spiked shoes, I would practice in just regular ones. My uncle told me he would buy me spiked ones when I got 1st place in a foot-race at an athletics festival, so I worked hard and got 1st place at one. And the spiked shoes I got made me so gosh darn happy... I remember really treasuring them. Whether it was a CD or whatever, once I got a part-time job and went out into the world, I always really treasured things I bought with money I earned. At that time I had a sorta feeling of accomplishment a lot like that. Anyhow, I really treasured them. I really liked Ichirou, so getting to use the tools that Ichirou used during a match (bats and gloves) made me really treasure them, I think. Id clean them every day and be really thankful to my tools. There are a lot of players that, on a human-level, are really respectful people. Yeah.

I seriously can't believe how off-topic I've gotten (hehe). Okay let's go back to talking about manga a little. I thought about a "ball" as a tool you could get attached to, but that was pretty hard... To be honest here, there really are just too many sports out there that use a ball and everything I came up with was really similar to something that existed. I kept running into stuff where it'd feel like "It'd be faster just drawing a soccer manga than this~." So at that point, I threw the idea of a ball out of my head. So I set aside details like the rules and decided to go with illustrations. I though about what the "scene" and the "movements" in that sport would be like. At this point, I set aside the tools too, and tried to imagine a sport based on "moves" that would be cool for a human to do...

Continued on the next page~

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (7))

I think simply the coolness and other stuff you get from the visuals are really important to a manga. Like, even if I came up with a perfectly interesting sport, unless I could make it look interesting in a manga, it would be pretty pointless. So it had to be something cool from a visual perspective... So at that point I started just drawing like crazy in my notebook. Of human movements. Of course using other sports as a reference...

And then one day, I can still remember it really well now, I was drawing like I always do at a family restaurant in Okinawa (At that point I was doing Names in Okinawa where my family lived) and I had an idea. In many sports, you have a ball that you throw overhand, right? In handball they have passing from your shoulder, too, but basically you usually throw them like a baseball. There are very few sports that go the other way where you start inside and release it going outward... I thought. There are the throws you have in basketball and handball, but what I was imagining was more like how you throw a frisbee. When I tried throwing a frisbee myself, the feeling of it flying from you felt really good. It had that fun-to-throw sorta feel (Something like that, I don't totally understand it)... So I tried drawing a "pass" with a frisbee, and I could make it look really cool as an illustration. But as for making a game, I couldn't think of anything beyond that... Like how you scored points, how you would dribble, that sorta thing. I thought maybe there's nothing I can do besides a touchdown like in American football? But then you've got the frisbee itself... I hit a lot of walls, but then I had an idea.

Continued on the next page~

Shimabus Story

(Until I made Ring (8))

What if I put a "hoop" through the middle of the frisbee...? Hey, a frisbee is basically a flat plate, right? So I'll gouge out the center. But if I do that, then it won't fly that way (like a frisbee normally does), will i~t? I thought. Then how about I just forget the frisbee and make it just a hoop? Something like a hula hoop... Yeah, the original idea for the rings was a hula hoop. Right, the ones you spin around your waist. I spent forever on the idea of if you make a hula hoop spin towards you when you throw it, it comes back to you (You know what I mean, right?). There are a lot of hoop-related sports in gymnastics, right? Those are simple and interesting and I did them a lot in elementary school. And I really had a lot more fun throwing them and getting them to come back to me than I did making them spin around my waist (hehe).

Okay, so what if I try having only one hoop? I had that helpful idea and so I tried drawing lots of "moves" of using that hoop in my notebook. The result was 'Man, I sure can draw a lot of moves with this~.' There was a larger degree of freedom than there was with a frisbee, plus you could roll it on the ground... Using a hula-hoop, it got in the way in the drawings a lot of the time, so I tried making it a bit smaller. And you could do the nutmeg move where it goes under someone's legs, too. I came up with all these scenes where you dribbled it or passed it past an opponent, so I got to thinking this could be pretty good... And I chuckled to myself alone at a family restaurant (What a weirdo... hehe). I guess the idea I had somewhere in me from the beginning, within the idea of a team sport playing on a field doing that sorta dribbling and passing was pretty strong. But you can't do that sorta thing with a hoop, I thought.

Continued on the next page~

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